

On Top Of The News Email:[news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) website: [www.arubatoday.com](http://www.arubatoday.com) Tel:+297 582-7800 Saturday, August 24, 2013

## RED TAPE

BRADLEY KLAPPER

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Barack Obama on Friday played down the prospect of speedy U.S. intervention in Syria, stressing the difficulty of ordering military action against the Assad government without a strong international coalition and a legal mandate from the United Nations.



President Barack Obama speaks at Binghamton University, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013, in Vestal, N.Y.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Obama has asked the Pentagon to provide military options in light of reports that the Syrian government used chemical weapons against civilians. While Hagel declined to discuss any specific force movements, U.S. defense officials said the U.S. Navy moved a fourth warship into the region. Each can launch ballistic missiles.

"The Defense Department has a responsibility to provide the president with options for contingencies, and that requires positioning our forces, positioning our assets, to be able to carry out different options — whatever options the president might choose," Hagel told reporters traveling with him to Asia.

Continued on page 2

## San Diego Mayor Resigns



**Filner defiantly challenges harassment accusations**

San Diego Mayor Bob Filner speaks to members of the City Council in San Diego, Aug. 23, 2013. Filner, who is to step down Aug. 30, resigned on Friday under a barrage of sexual harassment complaints, offering an apology to his accusers while still denying the allegations and blaming his downfall on "a combination of awkwardness and hubris."

(Sandy Huffaker/The New York Times)

JENNIFER MEDINA

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**SAN DIEGO** — Mayor Bob Filner resigned Friday under a barrage of sexual harassment complaints, offering an apology to his accusers while still denying the allegations and blaming his downfall on "a combination of awkwardness and hubris." "I never intended to be a mayor who went

out like this," Filner said before a packed City Council chamber, drawing sporadic applause from some supporters in the audience. His announcement came after a closed-door meeting of the City Council in which members considered a deal struck late Wednesday that paved the way for the mayor's resignation. He is to step down

Aug. 30.

"This is the toughest decision in my life," said Filner, who devoted many of his comments to criticizing his political enemies and speaking of the vision he had for leading the city. The council's decision came after dozens of people packed the chambers to voice their opinion on a deal whose details they

had no way of knowing. Several residents supporting a recall effort urged council members to reject any deal that would give Filner money for his legal fees and damages. But others sought compassion for Filner, citing his years of championing civil rights and the environment.

Continued on page 3

## Obama plays down US intervening in Syria

**Continued from Front**

U.S. Navy ships are capable of a variety of military action, including launching Tomahawk cruise missiles, as they did against Libya in 2011 as part of an international action that led to the overthrow of the Libyan government.

While the Obama administration weighed military responses to this week's claims of a large-scale chemical weapons attack near Damascus, Obama spoke as cautiously as ever about getting involved in a war that has killed more than 100,000 people and now includes Hezbollah and al-Qaida.

that we have to take into account."

The reported attack Wednesday, which killed at least 100 people in a Damascus suburb, would amount to the most heinous use of chemical weapons since Saddam Hussein gassed thousands of Kurds in the town of Halabja two-and-a-half decades ago.

Obama conceded in an interview on CNN's "New Day" program that the episode is a "big event of grave concern" that requires American attention. He said any large-scale chemical weapons usage would affect "core national interests" of the United States and its allies. But

Assad's regime if it resorted to its chemical weapons arsenal, among the world's vastest, saying use or even deployment of such weapons of mass destruction constituted a "red line" for him. A U.S. intelligence assessment concluded in June chemical weapons have been used in Syria's civil war, but Washington has taken no military action against Assad's forces. U.S. officials have instead focused on trying to organize a peace conference between the government and opposition. Obama has authorized weapons deliveries to rebel groups, but none is believed to have been sent so far. In his first comments on Syr-



Marine One helicopter with President Barack Obama aboard lands on the South Lawn of the White House, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013, in Washington.

**(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)**

The president made no mention of the "red line" of chemical weapons use that he marked out for Syrian President Bashar Assad a year ago and that U.S. intelligence says has been breached at least on a small scale several times since.

"If the U.S. goes in and attacks another country without a U.N. mandate and without clear evidence that can be presented, then there are questions in terms of whether international law supports it — do we have the coalition to make it work?" Obama said Friday.

"Those are considerations

nothing he said signaled a shift toward U.S. action. U.S. defense officials said the additional warship was moved into the eastern Mediterranean Sea. There are no immediate orders for any missile launch into Syria, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss ship movements publicly.

But if the U.S. wants to send a message to Assad, the most likely military action would be a Tomahawk missile strike, launched from a ship in the Mediterranean. For a year now, Obama has threatened to punish

ia since the alleged chemical attack, Obama said the U.S. is still trying to find out what happened.

U.S. confirmation took more than four months after rebels similarly reported chemical attacks in February, though in this instance a U.N. chemical weapons team is already on the ground in Syria. Assad's government, then as now, has denied the claims as baseless.

Obama also cited the need for the U.S. to be part of a coalition in dealing with Syria. America's ability by itself to solve the Arab country's sectarian fighting is "overstated," he said. □

**IMF head:**

## Weak nations need aid of central-bank

**MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
**AP Economics Writer**

**JACKSON HOLE, Wyoming (AP)** — The head of the International Monetary Fund cautioned the world's major central banks Friday not to withdraw their unconventional support for weak economies too soon.

IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said stimulative policies are still needed in key regions, especially Europe and Japan, which have struggled with prolonged weakness.

She spoke at an annual economics conference in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, sponsored by the Kansas City Federal Reserve Bank.

Lagarde said central banks must carefully develop strategies for scaling back their efforts to keep borrowing rates low. Any pullback should be determined by the strength of individual economies, she said.

Her comments come as the Fed is signaling that it could slow its bond purchases later this year if the U.S. economy continues to improve. The Fed's bond buying has helped keep U.S. interest rates near record lows.

"Unconventional monetary policy is still needed in all places it is being used, albeit longer for some than for others," Lagarde said in her speech to the conference.

The anticipation of a slowdown in Fed bond buying has unsettled U.S. stock and bond markets and sent interest rates up. Rising U.S. rates have, in turn, triggered turmoil in some emerging economies, such as Turkey, India and Indonesia. Officials in those countries have tried to halt declines in the value of their currencies as investors have shifted money into higher-yielding investments elsewhere. Lagarde noted the market declines that have followed Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke's signal in June that the Fed could begin slowing its bond purchases later this year if the U.S. economy strengthens further.

She said finance officials should prepare contingency plans in case market turbulence worsens.

Some investors think the Fed could announce at its next meeting in September that it's reducing its bond purchases. But comments from Fed officials at Jackson Hole suggested some disagreement within the central bank over the proper timing for a slowdown to begin.

Dennis Lockhart, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, suggested in an interview with CNBC that he might be ready to endorse a bond-buying slowdown in September. But James Bullard, president of the St. Louis Fed, said he thought the economy remains too uncertain for a pullback next month.

"I don't think we have to be in any hurry," Bullard said in a separate interview with CNBC. "I think we want to take our time and assess what is going on."

In a separate interview, Bullard said the decision on whether to start tapering could well come into focus just a few days before the Sept. 17-18 meeting if Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke decides at that time to provide the other policymakers with a recommendation.

"That's probably the kind of thing that it would come down to just a few days before the meeting, he'd kind of lay out some options," Bullard said in an interview with Fox Business News.

Bullard is a voting member of the Fed's interest rate panel this year. Lockhart takes part in discussions but doesn't have a vote this year. Their remarks mirrored the divided opinion that was evident in the minutes of the Fed's July meeting released this week.

In her speech, Lagarde said the support being provided by major central banks is buying time for nations to implement key economic reforms. □

## Report: NSA paid email providers to cover ruling costs

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**WASHINGTON** - The National Security Agency apparently compensated email service providers "millions of dollars" for costs they incurred in the fallout from an October 2011 court ruling that an unrelated aspect of the agency's surveillance operations violated the Constitution, according to a newly disclosed document.

The document - a brief article in a secret internal agency newsletter, dated October 2012, that was leaked by the former NSA contractor Edward J. Snowden and published by The Guardian on Friday - added a detail to the emerging public understanding of the once-secret episode, but it also raised new questions.

The NSA newsletter mentioning millions of dollars in costs stemming from the October 2011 ruling announced the smooth completion last fall of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court's annual recertification of certain NSA procedures. (The Obama administration declassified the ruling Wednesday.)

The procedures involve how the agency carries out eavesdropping operations without warrants on domestic soil, but aimed at foreigners abroad, under a 2008 law called the FISA Amendments Act. The effort has two parts: one called Prism, which the NSA uses to collect messages from email providers like Google, and an "upstream" collection from networks operated by companies like Verizon. The entire effort collects about 250 million communications a year, the 2011 court ruling said.

It is not remarkable that the government paid the companies for their costs. In the 2008 law, Congress required compensation "at the prevailing rate" to electronic communications service firms for "providing information, facilities or assistance" in complying with directives. □

## Nasdaq losing standing to rivals over mishaps

NATHANIEL POPPER

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Nasdaq was once the tech-savvy upstart of the financial world, set to take over the U.S. stock market. Now, the company is looking more like a vulnerable also-ran.

The reputation of the market operator has been dented by a number of recent mishaps, the biggest and most prominent coming Thursday, when a technical problem shut down all trading in Nasdaq stocks for three hours. That was just a few weeks after prosecutors announced that hackers had managed to break into and remain in Nasdaq's computer systems for two years.

Even before its technical problems, Nasdaq has been losing its commanding position in stock trading as younger rivals steal its business.

Two of those rivals - BATS Global Markets and Direct Edge - are in talks to merge, according to a person briefed on the matter. That combination would make it bigger than Nasdaq and close to the New York Stock Exchange in terms of trading volume. The deal talks are showcasing the rise of two markets built to favor

computerized high-speed trading.

The NYSE, the long-time archival of Nasdaq, has dealt with these competitive pressures by selling itself to another young, fast-growing exchange in a

other exchanges. And the acquisitions it has recently made have often been far from the stock trading business. All of which has left a big question mark hanging over its future.

"They've got a real prob-

lem they used to have." A number of industry participants have complained that Nasdaq's response to the trading halt Thursday showed many of the same flaws that have caused the company problems in



The front of the Nasdaq stock exchange in New York, Aug. 22, 2013. Trading in a wide array of stocks, including popular ones like Apple and Microsoft, ground to a halt on Thursday for more than two hours after a technology problem at the Nasdaq stock exchange.

(Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times)

deal that recently received approval from regulators. But Nasdaq has failed in its two notable efforts to buy

lem," said David B. Weiss, an exchange analyst at Aite Group. "They need to do something to get the

other circumstances; most of all, poor communication with other members of the industry. □

## Filner defiantly challenges harassment accusations

### Continued from Front

The council voted 7-0 in favor of the deal, which limits Filner's legal and financial exposure in the sexual harassment lawsuit by a former aide who first brought the accusations to light.

Filner, appearing to choke up at times, criticized what he called a "lynch-mob mentality" against him, blaming his political opponents and the news media, which he said "played into the hands of those who wanted a political coup." "For my part in causing all of this, I offer a deep apology, certainly to the citizens of San Diego," he said. "To all the women I offended, I had no intention to be offensive."

But Filner defiantly challenged the harassment accusations. "Not one allegation has ever been independently verified or proven in court," he said. "I have never sexually harassed anyone."

The resignation capped a tumultuous six weeks for San Diego. Since Filner's top communication aide first went public with her complaints of sexual harassment last month, 17 more women came forward with accusations, creating a steady stream of accounts of Filner groping and kissing women against their will. The women who said they were harassed included a retired Navy rear admiral, a great-grandmother, a university dean and the former communications director, Irene McCor-

mack Jackson, who filed a lawsuit against the mayor and the city. Filner eventually apologized for what he called disrespectful behavior, but maintained that he had not broken any laws and that he wanted an impartial review to clear his name. His lawyers filed papers to move the lawsuit to Imperial County, just east of San Diego. But calls for his resignation grew louder in recent weeks and organizers on Sunday started collecting signatures to force a recall election.

Organizers of the recall effort said Friday that they had more than 20,000 signatures, about one-fifth of what would be needed to qualify for the ballot.

Filner is the third mayor of this city to step down in recent history. Roger Hedge-

cock, a Republican, left office after he was convicted of conspiracy in connection with an illegal campaign contribution in 1985, a felony offense that was eventually reduced and erased from his record. When San Diego faced widespread financial problems in 2005, earning it the nickname "Enron-by-the-Sea," Mayor Richard Murphy, also a Republican, resigned during the first year of his second term.

"He's made us the subject of ridicule again, and that's a big blow to everybody," Jerry Sanders, mayor from 2005 to 2012, said of Filner. "Everyone is going to want to move forward very quickly to get past this ugly chapter. The faster that can happen, the better off we will probably be." □

# Huge California wildfire spreads into Yosemite Park

GOSIA WOZNICKA

Associated Press

**FRESNO, California (AP)**—A giant wildfire raging out of control spread into Yosemite National Park on Friday as authorities urged more evacuations in nearby communities where thousands fled during the week as flames marched through the timbered slopes of the western Sierra Nevada. The fire, which started a week ago, closed backcountry hiking in the park, but was not threatening the popular Yosemite Valley region. The fire grew from 99 square miles (255 sq. kilometers) to more than 165 square miles (430 sq. kilometers) overnight and was only 2 percent contained. Smoke blowing across the Sierra into Nevada forced officials in several counties to cancel outdoor school activities and issue health advisories, especially for people with respiratory

problems.

"Most of the fire activity is pushing to the east right into Yosemite," said Daniel Berlant, spokesman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

The fire was threatening about 4,500 residences, according to the U.S. Forest Service. Officials issued voluntary evacuation advisories for two new towns on Friday, spokesman Jerry Snyder said. A mandatory evacuation order remained in effect for part of Pine Mountain Lake, a summer gated community that's a few miles from the fire line.

Already, the blaze has destroyed four homes and 12 outbuildings in several different areas, Snyder said. One firefighter also sustained a heat-related injury.

The Hetch Hetchy reservoir supplies San Francisco



**The Rim Fire** burns near Yosemite National Park, Calif. The wildfire outside Yosemite National Park — one of more than 50 major brush blazes burning across the western U.S. — more than tripled in size overnight and still threatens about 2,500 homes, hotels and camp buildings.

(AP Photo/U.S. Forest Service)

with 85 percent of its water, but the city's Public Utilities Commission said in a statement that water quality has not been affected by the fire and was unlikely to be. Two of three hydroelectric powerhouses in the area

have been shut down because of the fire, the commission said, but the city has been able to make up the difference through buying power on the open market.

The park remained open

but the blaze closed a 4-mile (6.5-kilometer) stretch of State Route 120, one of three entrances into Yosemite on the west side. The other western routes and an eastern route were open.□

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## Conviction overturned in US Islamic charity case



Pete Seda, left, the head of the Ashland-based Saudi charity Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation speaks to students about peace during a panel discussion at Southern Oregon University in Ashland, Ore. An appeals court has overturned Seda's conviction on charges he smuggled money out of the country to help Chechen rebels fight Russian forces. The ruling Friday Aug. 23, 2013 from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco says the government turned what was really a tax fraud case into a terrorism case.

(AP Photo/Myles Murphy)

He was convicted in 2010 of using the foundation to help smuggle \$150,000 to Saudi Arabia in 2000 and signing a fraudulent tax return to cover it up. During the trial, Seda blamed the tax return on his accountant and maintained the money was for humanitarian aid. The foundation was disbanded after the U.S. government declared it was a terrorist organization and froze its assets.

A federal trial judge said at Seda's 2011 sentencing that there was no proof directly linking him to terrorism, although the judge said he had no doubt the money went to Islamic fighters in Chechnya, as the prosecution maintained. The appeals court said Friday that the government

failed to provide a fair and complete summary of classified material to Seda's defense team, failed to disclose that a key prosecution witness had been paid and exceeded the scope of a search warrant used to search computers seized from the foundation. It wasn't until after the trial — but before the sentencing — that prosecutors revealed that the FBI had paid \$14,500 to the late husband of Barbara Cabral, a former member of Seda's prayer house and the only witness to say that Seda wanted to help Chechen fighters.

The court found that because of that failure, Seda's lawyers were unable to cast doubt on Cabral's testimony. □

JEFF BARNARD  
Associated Press  
GRANTS PASS, Oregon (AP)

— A federal appeals court Friday overturned the conviction of a man who operated an Oregon-based Islamic charity on charges he smuggled money out of the country to help Chechen rebels fight Russian forces.

The ruling Friday from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco was highly critical of prosecutors' handling of the case against Pete Seda, an Iranian-born U.S. citizen.

"This is a tax fraud case that was transformed into a

trial on terrorism," Judge M. Margaret McKeown wrote for the three-judge panel. "The appeal illustrates the fine line between the government's use of relevant evidence to document motive for a cover up and its use of inflammatory, unrelated evidence about Osama bin Laden and terrorist activity that prejudices the jury."

Seda worked for many years as a tree surgeon in Ashland, Oregon, where he also operated the Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation and was an outspoken proponent of the peaceful aspects of Islam.

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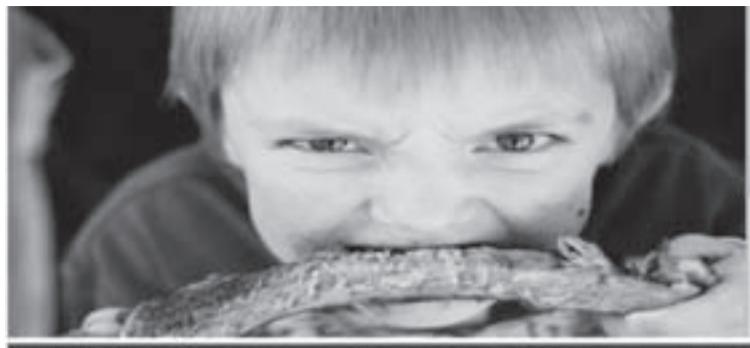
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## US soldier guilty of Fort Hood rampage

PAUL J. WEBER

WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas (AP)

— A military jury on Friday convicted a U.S. Army psychiatrist in the deadly 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood, making him eligible for the death penalty in the shocking assault against American troops by one of their own on home soil.

There was never any doubt that Maj. Nidal Hasan was the gunman. He acknowledged to the jury that he was the one who pulled the trigger on fellow soldiers as they prepared to deploy to Afghanistan and Iraq. Thirteen people were killed and more than 30 wounded.

Hasan, who said he opened fire on fellow soldiers to protect Muslim insurgents abroad from American aggression, did not react to the verdict, looking straight at jurors as they announced their findings. After the hearing, relatives of the dead and wounded fought back tears. Some smiled and warmly patted each other's shoulders as they left court.

Because Hasan never denied his actions, the court-martial was always less about a conviction than it was about ensuring he received the death pen-

alty. From the beginning of the case, the federal government has sought to execute Hasan, believing that any sentence short of a lethal injection would deprive the military and the families of the dead of the justice they have sought for

not agree, the 42-year-old could spend the rest of his life in prison.

Hasan said he planned to continue representing himself in the sentencing phase, even though the military judge, Col. Tara Osborn told him it was unwise

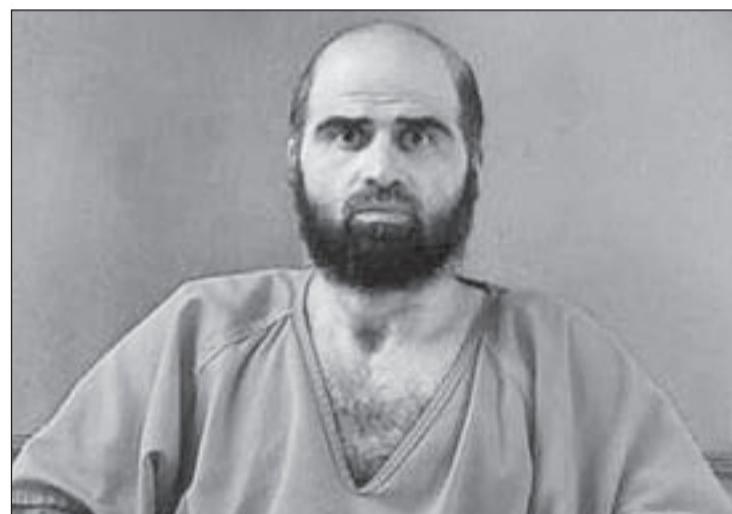
began deliberating. "There was adequate provocation — that these were deploying soldiers that were going to engage in an illegal war."

All but one of the dead were soldiers, including a pregnant private who curled on the floor and pleaded for her baby's life. John Galligan, Hasan's former lead attorney, said Hasan called him to make sure he heard the verdict, and the pair planned to meet later at Fort Hood. Galligan said the jury did not hear all the facts because the judge refused to allow evidence that helped explain Hasan's actions.

"Right or wrong, strong or weak, the facts are the facts," he said. "The jury we heard from only got half the facts."

Hasan was left paralyzed from the waist down after being shot in the back by one of the Fort Hood police officers who responded to the rampage. He now uses a wheelchair.

The sentencing phase is expected to begin with more testimony from survivors of the attack inside an Army medical center where soldiers were waiting in long lines to receive immunizations and medical clearance for deployment. □



This photo shows Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Hasan. Hasan has been convicted of murder Friday, Aug. 23, 2013 at Fort Hood for the 2009 shooting rampage at Fort Hood that killed 13 people and wounded more than 30 others.

(AP Photo)

nearly four years.

The unanimous decision on all 13 counts of premeditated murder made Hasan eligible for execution in the sentencing phase that begins Monday.

The jurors must all agree to give Hasan the death penalty before he can be sent to the military's death row, which has just five other prisoners. If they do

to do so.

Hasan, a U.S.-born Muslim, said the attack was a jihad against U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He bristled when Osborn suggested the shooting rampage could have been avoided were it not for a spontaneous flash of anger.

"It wasn't done under the heat of sudden passion," Hasan said before jurors

## Bales gets life in prison over 2012 carnage

GENE JOHNSON

Associated Press

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MC-CHORD, Washington (AP)

— The U.S. soldier who massacred 16 Afghan civilians last year in one of the worst atrocities of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars was sentenced Friday to life in prison with no chance of release — the most severe sentence possible, but one that left surviving victims and relatives of the dead deeply unsatisfied.

Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, 40, who pleaded guilty in June in a deal to avoid the death penalty, showed no emotion as the jury announced verdict after deliberating for less than two hours.

An interpreter flashed a thumbs-up sign to a row of Afghan villagers who were either wounded or lost family members in the March 11, 2012, attacks.

"We wanted this murderer to be executed," said Hajji Mohammad Wazir, who lost 11 family members in the attack by Staff Sgt. Robert Bales. "We were brought all the way from Afghanistan to see if justice would be served. Not our way — justice was served the American way." □

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**US Financial Front:**

# Jump in mortgage rates hurts US sales of new homes

**C. S. RUGABER****AP Economics Writer****WASHINGTON (AP)** —

Americans cut back sharply in July on their purchases of new homes, a sign that higher mortgage rates may slow the housing recovery. U.S. sales of newly built homes dropped 13.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 394,000,

crease has begun to steal some momentum from the market.

Sales of new homes are still up 7 percent in the 12 months ending in July. Yet the annual pace remains well below the 700,000 that is consistent with a healthy market.

July's drop "may mark an uh-oh kind of moment for

May. The slide began after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke first signaled that the Fed might reduce its bond purchases later this year. The bond purchases have helped keep mortgage rates and other borrowing costs low. The average rate on a 30-year mortgage reached 4.58 percent this week, ac-



Workers are seen at the construction site of a new housing complex, in Trenton, N.J. The Commerce Department reported Americans cut back sharply on new-home sales for July, on Friday, Aug. 23, 2013.

(AP Photo)

the Commerce Department said Friday. That's the lowest in nine months. And sales fell from a rate of 455,000 in June, which was revised down from a previously reported 497,000. The housing rebound that began last year has helped drive economic growth and create more construction jobs.

But mortgage rates have climbed a full percentage point since May. The in-

the housing recovery," said Mark Vitner, an economist at Wells Fargo Securities. Homebuilder stocks declined sharply Friday, even as overall market indexes rose. Shares of Toll Brothers Inc., D.R. Horton Inc. and Lennar Corp. — three of the largest U.S. builders — all fell more than 3 percent in afternoon trading. And major homebuilders' shares have been dropping steadily since late

cording to Freddie Mac. That's up from 3.35 percent in early May and the highest in two years. The impact on would-be buyers' finances is significant.

Take someone who locked in the early May rate on a \$200,000 mortgage. They would have a monthly payment of around \$875. But the same mortgage at last week's average rate would cost \$1,025 a month. □

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## Lockdown smothers day of planned protest in Egypt

**David D. Kirkpatrick**

**Rod Nordland**

© 2013 New York Times

**CAIRO** - A tight lockdown on Cairo by Egyptian security forces Friday all but squelched a planned day of protests by the Muslim Brotherhood and its allies, suggesting that the new military government had gained a decisive edge in its battle against supporters of the ousted president, Mohammed Morsi.

Armored military vehicles moved through the streets around dawn, unrolling coils of barbed wire across major thoroughfares encircling central mosques where protests have often broken out after prayers on Fridays. A few marquee mosques were closed, an extraordinary step.

Tanks and armored personnel carriers took up positions at bridges, tunnels and other crucial intersections. Soldiers and police officers sat in folding chairs with automatic rifles across their laps, shooing journal-

ists and other pedestrians away.

The relatively small number of demonstrators who did turn out were so cowed by the violence of the recent crackdown that they took steps to avoid even the smallest confrontation, gathering in only one place or moving in circles on a few blocks to avoid approaching army barricades. Few even blocked traffic.

"It is like an occupation," said Ismail Sayed Mohamed, 47, a printer at a demonstration of a few hundred people who gathered in a small space under an overpass near Giza Square, across the Nile from Cairo, the capital. "People want to go to the streets to defend their freedom, but they are afraid. They are killing us."

It was the latest sign that the escalating crackdown against "terrorism" called for by Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, chief of the armed forces, appears to have



An Egyptian walks between armored vehicles blocking Tahrir Square in, Cairo, Egypt, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013. A tight lockdown on Cairo by Egyptian security forces Friday all but squelched a planned day of protests by the Muslim Brotherhood and its allies.

(AP Photo/Amr Nabil)

broken the back of the Brotherhood, the Islamist organization allied with the ousted president, which has spearheaded opposition to the military takeover.

Egyptian security forces

have killed more than a thousand and arrested at least as many in just the nine days since they dispersed two Brotherhood-led sit-ins by tens of thousands of Morsi supporters. In addition to detaining Morsi incommunicado, the police have arrested the Brotherhood's top spiritual leaders and much of its governing board, forcing a rushed and secret selection of new leadership. Its officials say most of its second- and third-tier leaders are now dead or missing, and on Friday an official spokesman was arrested as well.

The Brotherhood-led coalition against the takeover had called for the protests under the banner Friday of Martyrs. Crowds of a few hundred, growing to as many as a few thousand in some places, gathered after prayers at about two dozen mosques around Cairo. But many said they planned to stay in their own neighborhoods and

head home early. Fear was their watchword.

For the first time since the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011, many demonstrators were afraid to give their names, and some denied, unconvincingly, an affiliation with the Muslim Brotherhood or any other Islamist group.

"Everyone's very scared of the security forces," said Ismail Mustafa, 27, a technician demonstrating in Helwan, just south of Cairo along the Nile. "We have lost many martyrs."

In addition to a state of emergency suspending right to due process and other limits on the police, the new government has imposed a strict curfew of 7 p.m. in half the country as well on as the capital, a normally frenetic 24-hour city of about 20 million. And unlike previous efforts to impose such restrictions under Mubarak or the generals who took power from him, this one has scared residents into obedience.



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## Pressure mounts on Hamas as economic lifelines are cut

JODI RUDOREN

© 2013 New York Times

**GAZA CITY**, Gaza Strip - The tumult roiling the Arab world had already severed the lifeline between the Palestinian militant group Hamas and two of its most important patrons, Iran and Syria.

Now, the dismantling of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood by the new military-backed government that ousted the Islamist president has Hamas reeling without crucial economic and diplomatic support. Over the past two weeks, a "crisis cell" of ministers has met daily. With Gaza's economy facing a \$250 million shortfall since Egypt shut down hundreds of smuggling tunnels, the Hamas government has begun to ration some resources.

Its leaders have even mulled publicly what for

years would have been unthinkable: inviting the presidential guard loyal to rival Fatah back to help keep the border with Egypt open.

The mounting pressure on Hamas has implications beyond the 141 square miles of this coastal strip it has ruled since 2007. It could serve to strengthen President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority and his more moderate Fatah faction that dominates the West Bank just as Washington-orchestrated peace talks get underway. It also adds another volatile element to the rapidly changing landscape across the region, where sectarian tensions have led to bloodshed and the Islamists rise to power through the ballot box has been blocked.

"Now, Hamas is an orphan," said Akram Atallah, a political analyst and col-



Mahmoud al-Zahar, center, a senior Hamas leader, during a protest against Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Aug. 23, 2013.

(Wissam Nassar/The New York Times)

umnist, referring to the fact from Egypt's Brotherhood that the movement sprang a quarter century ago.

"Hamas was dreaming and going up with its dreams that the Islamists were going to take over in all the capitals. Those dreams have been dashed."

The tide of the Arab Spring initially buoyed Hamas, helping bolster Iran and Syria, which provided the Gazan leadership weapons and cash, while undermining President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, who was deeply distrustful and hostile to the group. But Hamas eventually sided with the Sunni opposition in the civil war in Syria - alienating President Bashar Assad and his Iranian backers. □

## China: Citizens movement leader arrested

GILLIAN WONG  
Associated Press

**BEIJING (AP)** — The formal arrest this week of one of China's most well-known civil rights advocates underscores how unnerved the country's new leaders are by any independent, vaguely organized political action—even if it is as mundane as gathering for a dinner party. Beijing activist Xu Zhiyong, arrested Thursday, is one of the founders of a loose network of campaigners known as the New Citizens Movement, who, among other things, have called for people to get together on the last Saturday of each month for dinner to discuss China's constitution and other legal issues.

Xu had been detained last

month by Beijing police in the latest blow by Chinese authorities against a beleaguered activist community that has seen a widespread crackdown against peaceful assembly.

Zhang Qingfang, a lawyer for Xu, said his partner learned of Xu's formal arrest from Beijing's prosecuting office Thursday and that the arrest document should be delivered to Xu's family soon. The Beijing prosecuting office could not immediately provide information on Xu.

Police have accused Xu of "gathering a crowd to disrupt order in a public place," a vaguely defined charge that rights groups say has increasingly been used against activists. □

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## Koreas agree to reunions for first time in 3 years

FOSTER

YOUKYUNG LEE

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— North and South Korea agreed Friday to allow reunions next month of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, the first such meetings in three years and the latest conciliatory gesture from the North after a spring that saw it threaten Seoul and Washington with missile strikes and nuclear war.

One-hundred people from each country will be allowed to meet family members Sept. 25-30 at North Korea's Diamond Mountain resort, South Korea's Unification Ministry, which is responsible for relations with the North, said in a statement. Forty people from each side will also

KLUG

be allowed to hold talks by video conference on Oct. 22 and 23, and the countries agreed to meet later to discuss possible November reunions.

There's immense relief in South Korea that people who have languished for decades with little or no word about their loved ones will at last meet and that the North's threats and warlike rhetoric have died down — but there's also wariness and deep mistrust. Analysts say North Korea often follows provocations with charm offensives meant to win much-needed aid and diplomatic concessions.

The Korean War separated millions of families, and huge numbers of refugees moved both north and south. Most don't even

know whether their relatives are still alive because the two countries bar citizens from exchanging mail, phone calls and email. South Koreans who want

to meet relatives must apply for a permit, and applicants are then chosen by lottery. Most of the people applying for permits are over 70, and al-

ready nearly 56,000 of the roughly 129,000 applicants have died. Past reunions brought together weeping family members desperate for details and news. □



Head of the South Korean working-level delegation Lee Duk-haeng, right, shakes hands with his North Korean counterpart Park Yong Il exchange documents of a signed agreement during their meeting at the Peace House of south side of the border village of Panmunjom, which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War, in Paju, South Korea, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013.

(AP Photo/South Korea UM)



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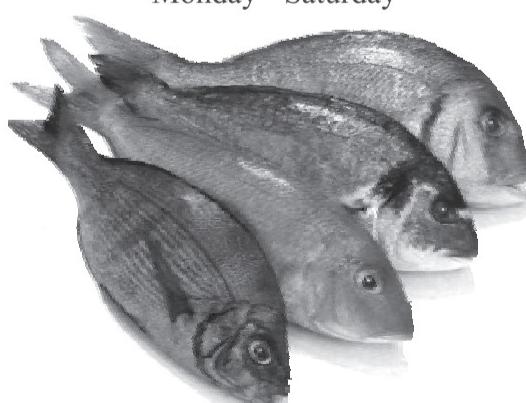
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## German FM: Future Greek aid package smaller

BERLIN (AP) — Germany's finance minister said in an interview published Friday that he expects a future aid package for Greece to be much smaller than the country's existing rescue deals. In two bailout packages so far, Greece's European partners and the International Monetary Fund have committed 240 billion euros (\$320 billion) in loans. This week, German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble said there will have to be another aid program after the current one expires next year.

Schaeuble was quoted as telling Germany's Handelsblatt daily that the prospect of further aid is being held out on condition that Greece fulfills its obligations "and in the expectation

that this will be about far smaller sums than to date, because Greece will then already have a primary surplus." He said he can't name any specific figures or measures and that decisions will have to be made next year, but again rejected the idea of a second debt write-down for Greece following a massive debt restructuring deal agreed with private sector bondholders last year.

Asked where the money for a further Greek aid package would come from, Schaeuble said that hasn't been decided but noted that the eurozone's rescue fund, the European Stability Mechanism, "is far from exhausted."

Germany's opposition has seized on Schaeuble's

comments about Greece to attack the government's credibility ahead of Sept. 22 elections. But officials are insisting the minister was really saying nothing new, noting that they have long said more aid was likely. Schaeuble said it was "nonsense" to assert that he was hiding anything. "I don't want it said of me after the election, independently of how it goes and what I personally do afterward, that I didn't tell the truth before the election," he was quoted as saying. "So I am glad that the public has now paid close attention to what I have been saying again and again for a long time ... we will have to concern ourselves in the middle of next year with new measures for Greece." □

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## Paraguay seizes 2 tons of cocaine on Brazil border

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP)

— Paraguayan officials have seized almost two tons of cocaine near the country's border with Brazil, authorities said Friday. Special drug agents said they found a one-ton cargo of cocaine at a ranch in the state of Presidente Hayes, about 240 miles (380 kilometers) north of the capital, Asuncion. Agents reported another 1,800 pound (800 kilogram) find on Thursday in the state of Concepcion. "These are preliminary reports because we're still going through the inventory for more cocaine packets and arms," said Luis Rojas, head of the National Anti-drug Secretariat. "Five people, all of them five Paraguayan citizens, have been arrested so far."

He said the cocaine likely came from Bolivia or Peru. Paraguay's new president, Horacio Cartes, named Rojas as the country's drug czar last week.

Cartes, whose term runs through August 2018, built a family fortune with companies that dominate industries including banking, tobacco and soccer. But he has faced accusations that his wealth was fed by money laundering, cigarette smuggling and drug trafficking. The accusations became widely reported after WikiLeaks published a 2010 U.S. State Department cable that labeled him the head of a drug trafficking and money laundering operation. Cartes has denied this. □

## Mexico officials ID bodies as 5 of missing 12

ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON  
Associated Press

TLALMANALCO, Mexico (AP) — Mexican authorities said Friday they have identified five bodies pulled from a mass grave as some of the 12 people kidnapped three months ago from a Mexico City bar almost within sight of the U.S. Embassy and the city's main boulevard.

Assistant attorney general Renato Sales told reporters that 13 badly decomposed bodies have been pulled from a grave covered with cement, quicklime and asbestos discovered Thursday on a rural ranch east of Mexico City. Ricardo Martinez, a lawyer for relatives of the missing, said there is no doubt the other bodies would also be identified as the missing youths, most of whom are from the rough Mexico City neighborhood of Tepito.

"They're going to wind up identifying all of them," Martinez told The Associated Press. "I hope the SEIDO (the federal attorney general's office for organized crime) takes over the case, because now it's proven that this is organized crime."

Officials said the remains are at federal labs, where experts are using DNA tests, and they expect to have all of them identified soon. There was no immediate explanation about how the 13th body was related to the kidnapped youths.

"At this point we have plainly identified through genetic testing Alan Omar Athiencia," aged 26, said Renato Sales, adding "we have sufficient evidence" to identify the bodies of two other men and two

Investigators found a pistol, a shotgun and several pairs of handcuffs at a home on the ranch where the mass grave was found.

The young bar-goers vanished from the Heaven club at midday May 26,

carried out multiple killings in Mexico City, seldom had they involved so many victims, and seldom have the victims been buried in mass graves, as drug gangs have frequently done in northern Mexico.



A municipal police vehicle sits parked at the entrance to a ranch in Tlalmanalco, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013. Mexican authorities said Friday they have identified five bodies pulled from a mass grave as some of the 12 people kidnapped three months ago from a Mexico City bar.

(AP Photo/Adriana Gomez)

women.

The head of the federal forensics office, Sara Monica Medina, said the bodies of the other four — Gabriela Ruiz Martinez, Rafael Rojo Martinez, Guadalupe Morales Vargas, and Josue Piedra Moreno — had been identified from implants, tattoos and other physical characteristics, and further tests were pending.

just a block from the leafy Paseo de Reforma, the capital's equivalent of the Champs-Elysees.

The bizarre disappearance resonated across the city of 9 million people because many had come to believe it was an oasis from the rampant drug violence that had led to discovery of mass graves elsewhere in the country.

While drug gangs have

Authorities set up a perimeter more than a mile (1.5 kilometers) from the excavation site on a hilly ranch known as La Negra, where federal police and attorney general's trucks and large white vans were seen working the operation. The private property next to Rancho La Mesa Ecological Park is walled and surrounded by oak and pine trees. □

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## Colombian rebels suspend peace talks in Havana



Pablo Catatumbo, chief of the western bloc of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, center, speaks to journalists accompanied by Ricardo Tellez, left, and Ivan Marquez, chief FARC negotiator during peace talks with Colombia's government in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013.

(AP Photo/Ismael Francisco, Cubadebate)

**ANDREA RODRIGUEZ**  
**Associated Press**

**HAVANA (AP)** — Colombia's largest guerrilla army temporarily walked away from peace talks with the government Friday over President Juan Manuel Santos' refusal to agree to modify the constitution if a peace pact is struck. It is the first time either side has broken off negotiations that began last year in Havana, other than for planned recesses. But the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, stopped short of pulling out of the peace process entirely. The move comes after Santos announced Thursday night that he was asking Congress to consider a bill that would let a public referendum on an eventual peace deal coincide with congressional or presidential elections next year. His proposal for the referendum falls short of the constitutional convention sought by the FARC.

The government and rebels have long been at odds on the issue, and Santos' decision prompted the rebels to call a time-out to regroup.

"The FARC has decided to take a pause from the dis-

cussion table to focus exclusively on analyzing the reach of the government proposal, without detriment to the internal consultation it must perform as an organization," the rebels said in a statement read to reporters by Jorge Torres Victoria, a high-ranking leader who goes by the nom de guerre Pablo Catatumbo.

The FARC did not say how long it would stay away from the negotiations.

Humberto de la Calle, Santos' lead negotiator at the Havana talks, said "the government remains at the table. ... We hope (this pause) is brief." Speaking at a public event in the northwestern department of Choco on Friday, Santos struck an optimistic tone. "It is perfectly legitimate and valid for (the FARC) to study this proposal," the president said, "but time passes and the Colombian people's patience has a limit, and we have to keep moving forward in the talks." However he later ordered his negotiating team to return to Bogota to evaluate the guerrillas' move, and said they would resume talks "when we consider it appropriate." □

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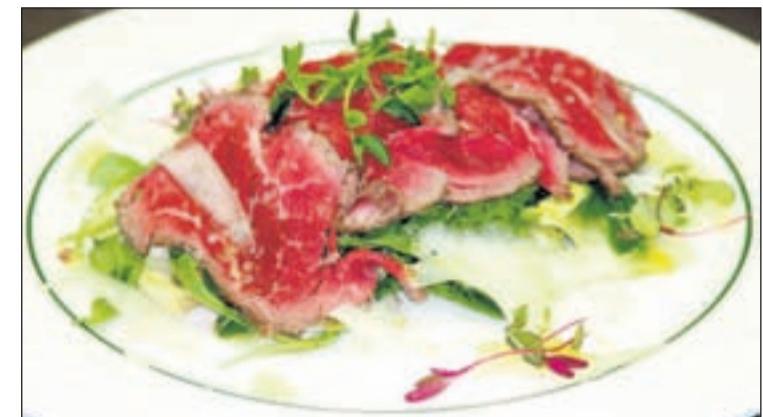
## China may build port in Jamaica

**KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)** — Jamaica's environment minister says a much-discussed transshipment port is being considered for the Caribbean island's largest protected area. Robert Pickersgill made the disclosure in Beijing, where he is accompanying Jamaica's prime minister for a five-day visit. They are meeting with Chinese political and business leaders. Pickersgill says the Goat Islands in Jamaica's southern protected zone of Portland Bight is "under very serious

consideration" as the site for the planned port. He told Jamaican reporters traveling with the delegation that state-owned China Harbor Engineering Co. wants to build it there. In Jamaica, conservationists said Thursday that a transshipment hub would have a devastating impact on the area's coastal environment. The 724-square-mile (463,360-acre) Portland Bight area was protected by Jamaica in 1999 to safeguard reefs, wetlands, and fish nurseries. □

# LOCAL Aruba TODAY

## Promenade Restaurant with new items on the menu



**ORANJESTAD** – Promenade Restaurant, which is family owned since 1997, has made amazing changes on their A La Carte Menu. To mention a few we have on the appetizers list the Carpaccio, Fisherman's Net and also the Punta Brabo Steamed Mussels. On the Crisps Salads list we have the Fried Brie Salad, Calypso Calamari Salad and the traditional Classic Caesar Salad, to mention a few. Of course, without forgetting the main dishes with a Tropical Touch and if you want to Surf And Turf, you have the Mixed Grill Trio, the traditional Surf and Turf and the Caribbean Cruise.

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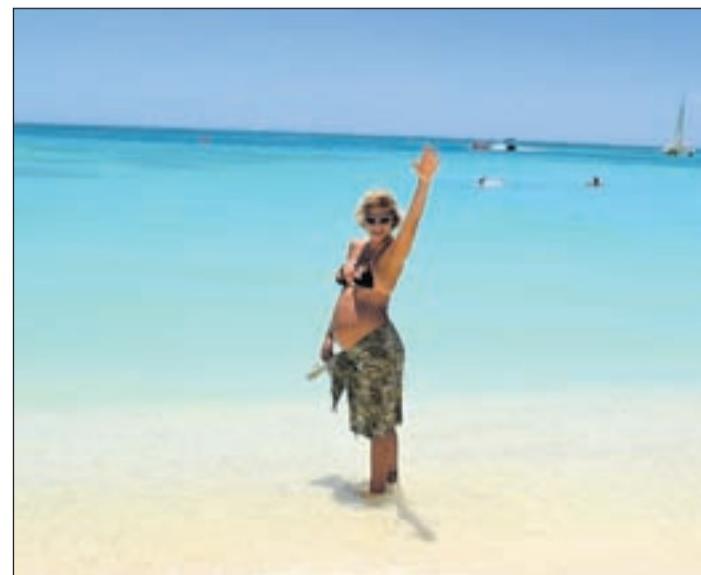
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### From America's Next Top Model: Lisa D'Amato returns to Aruba for a vacation getaway

**PALM BEACH** - America's Next Top Model All Star winner Lisa D'Amato returns to Aruba for some R&R time with husband Adam. The couple fell in love with the island during D'Amato's appearance at the launch party of Aruba Marriott's H2Oasis adults only pool in March 2012.

They are expecting their first child this fall and took the opportunity to take a short vacation away from their busy lives in LA. While vacationing in Aruba, they



were welcomed back to the Aruba Marriott Resort to spend time at the H2Oasis pool and the beach. They eventually hope to find their home in Aruba and raise their kids on the happy island.

"I told you that I would come back to Aruba for many more years," says D'Amato smiling.

The Aruba Marriott Resort wishes Lisa and Adam the best of luck with the last months of the pregnancy. □

## Find Anything and Everything Local at the Local Market!



**ORANJESTAD** - Want to get a feel of the Aruban culture; The Local Market is the place to be. Located right in front of the Valero gas station by the

cruise terminal, the market is open Monday thru Saturday from 9am-6pm; parking is free for market visitors. The market consists of Dutch market stalls that

offer local paintings, local music, cigars, sunglasses, local handicrafts, and much more!

Refreshments include fresh coconut juice, water, tropical shakes, sodas, and ice cream. This new market plans on opening on Sundays in the near future for a farmers/food market, so be pending!

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### At the Marriott Ocean Club: Hyland Family honored by ATA

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land Meyers. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weather, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Marriott Ocean Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Lillian Britten representing the Marriott Ocean Club and family members of the Hyland's. □



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events page on facebook and invite yourself, family & friends! And on the final day (Sep-

tember 1st) Ling & Sons will be offering a breakfast special for only 15 awg starting from 8 A.M to 11.

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**PALM BEACH** - Well-known Taste of Belgium Restaurant in the Palm Beach Plaza Mall is donating this week's SMS-event prizes. Just punch the word Burico and send it to number 250 of your Setar mobile phone and you are in the running to win a great evening out for two.

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by a super movie of your choice at the Caribbean Cinemas. Taste of Belgium's Dinner & a Movie for Two prize supports the Aruba's Donkey Sanctuary's fundraising, so keep on sending the word Burico on your Setar phone and help our donkeys and volunteers while making a chance to win this great prize of the week. □



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

## Congress could 'intervene' on HGH testing in NFL

HOWARD FENDRICH

AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Saying the NFL Players Association is "holding HGH testing hostage" after more than two years of squabbling with the league, the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee warned Thursday that Congress could get involved.

In a statement emailed by his office to The Associated Press, Rep. Elijah Cummings of Maryland said the union "continues to disregard its promise to implement HGH testing."

He added: "Continuing to block HGH testing in this way essentially will force Congress to intervene, which nobody wants."

The oversight committee held a hearing in December to take a look at the science behind blood tests

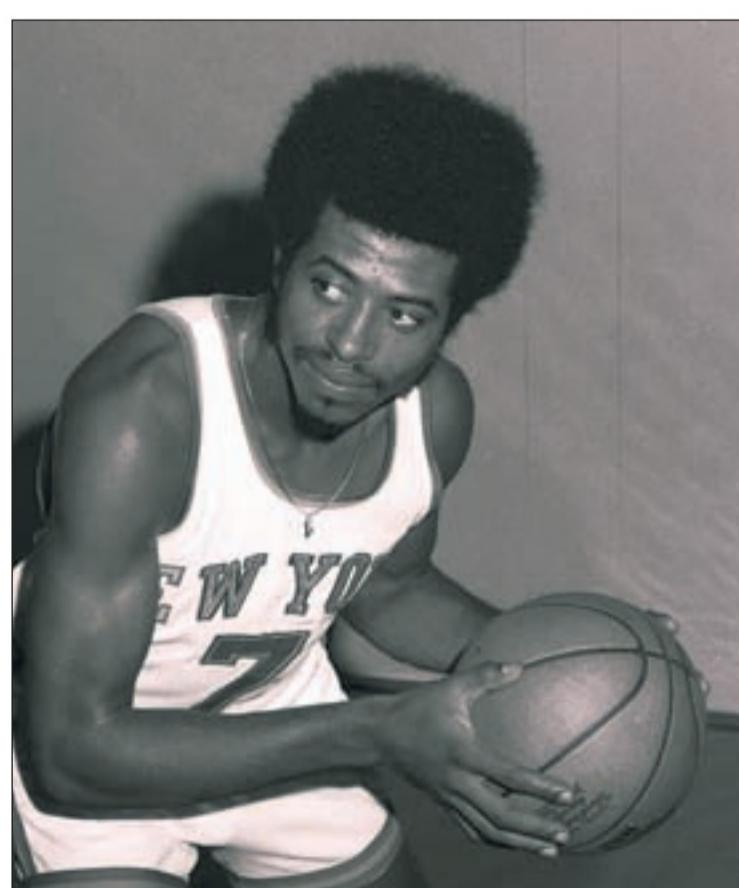


In this July 18, 2011, file photo, NFL Players Association spokesman George Atallah pauses as he speaks to the media in Washington, as talks to end the NFL lockout continued. Thursday's latest public back-and-forth, featuring NFL Senior Vice President Adolpho Birch and Atallah, comes exactly two weeks before the first game of the 2013 regular season.

Associated Press

for human growth hormone. HGH is a banned performance-enhancing drug that is hard to detect and has been linked to health problems such as diabetes, cardiac dysfunction and arthritis. Two full NFL seasons have passed — and another is about to begin — without a final agreement on HGH since the August 2011 labor deal paved the way for testing. In his statement, Cummings pointed to "extraordinary concessions from the NFL, numerous meetings with Members of Congress, and a parade of experts verifying the validity of HGH testing" and said: "After two years of negotiations, the NFLPA is now holding HGH testing hostage because of matters wholly unrelated to testing."

Continued on page 22



In this 1972 file photo, New York Knicks' Dean Meminger poses for a photo in New York. Meminger, the former Marquette guard who played a reserve role on the Knicks' 1973 NBA championship team, was found dead Friday, Aug. 23, 2013, in a New York hotel room. He was 65.

Associated Press

## Former Knicks player Meminger found dead

The Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** - Dean Meminger, the former Marquette guard who played a reserve role on the New York Knicks' 1973 NBA championship team, was found dead Friday in a Manhattan hotel room. He was 65.

New York City police said staff at the Hamilton Heights Hotel found Meminger unconscious and unresponsive inside a room and emergency medical personnel pronounced him dead.

Police said there were no signs of trauma and that the cause of death hadn't been determined. They said an investigation is ongoing.

"We want to thank everyone for their prayers and condolences during this difficult time for our fam-

ily," Meminger's family said in a statement. "Dean 'The Dream' Meminger touched the hearts of so many on and off the basketball court.

Through basketball and education, he helped countless people around the country receive scholarships, high school and college admissions, and even employment."

Meminger averaged 6.1 points in six seasons with the Knicks and Atlanta Hawks.

A former New York City prep star at Rice High School, Meminger led Marquette to a 78-9 mark in three varsity seasons, averaging 18.8 points. He averaged 21.2 points as a senior in 1970-71 and was drafted 16th overall by the Knicks.

"Everyone at the New York Knicks' organization is saddened to hear the news

of Dean Meminger's passing," Knicks general manager Glen Grunwald said in a statement. "From the day he was drafted by this franchise in 1971, Dean was a friend and close family member of this team. On April 5, 2013, the 1973 world championship team was honored at Madison Square Garden on its 40th anniversary. There was no one prouder than Dean to be back on the court with his teammates. We send our heartfelt condolences to the entire Meminger family."

Meminger had short coaching stints with the New York Stars in the Women's Basketball League, the Albany Patroons in the CBA and the Long Island Knights in the USBL. He coached Manhattanville College in 2003-04. □

# Kuchar makes good use of a short day at Barclays

**DOUG FERGUSON**

**AP Golf Writer**

**JERSEY CITY, New Jersey**

**(AP)** — Matt Kuchar made the most of his short day at The Barclays.

Kuchar didn't tee off until Friday afternoon at Liberty National and knew he had no chance to finish. He could barely see his ball cross the water and set up a two-putt birdie on the 13th hole that gave him the outright lead, and there was enough light coming from lower Manhattan across the Hudson River to hit his tee shot on the 14th. The horn sounded, and by then, he was ready to go home.

Kuchar was at 10-under par with five holes remaining and had to return Saturday morning to hold his one-shot lead over Webb Simpson and Gary Woodland, who both finished the second round in the rain-delayed tournament.

Simpson had to play 29 holes — 11 holes to finish his first round in the morning, followed by his second round — and he was ready to go more. He ran off six birdies over an eight-hole stretch and had a 5-under 66.

"It's much nicer when you're playing well to keep playing. And when you're playing well, you feel like you could play 40 holes in a day," Simpson said. "My main goal ... I just wanted to get done today. It just felt nice to putt out on 9, knowing that I've got tonight to sleep and catch up on rest."

Woodland was one of the last players to finish at twilight Friday, and he finished strong. Woodland, back on track after a win at the Reno-Tahoe Open three weeks ago, birdied four of his last five holes for a 64 to join Simpson in the clubhouse at 9-under 133.

"I feel ecstatic right now to be done," Woodland said. "It was a close call coming down the stretch if we would be able to finish. Luckily, I played great

today, gave myself a lot of opportunities, and I drove the ball phenomenally and rolled some putts in, especially late."

As for Tiger Woods, he couldn't get off the course fast enough.

Woods challenged the target set by Simpson with three birdies in five holes — he was two shots behind — and he had a pair of par 5s in front of him. He failed to make birdie on either of the par 5s, and made three bogeys out of the bunker through the 12th hole to fall off the pace. He made birdie on the 13th, the last hole he completed, but was still five shots behind Kuchar, who was in his group.

"I got off to a great start today and then lost it the middle part of the round and made too many mistakes," Woods said.

He also said his back remained sore from what he said earlier in the week was due to a soft bed in his hotel that led to stiffness in his neck and back. He said the pain increased throughout the round and when asked if a specific shot made it hurt, he replied, "Every one."

"I'm going to get treatment right now ... and be ready for tomorrow morning," Woods said.

It was the second straight year at The Barclays he has said a soft hotel bed caused stiffness in his back. Last year, it caused him trouble in the third round. Rory McIlroy showed more signs of turning his game around. After three double bogeys on Thursday, he limited the mistakes with some nifty par saves and was at 5 under with two holes remaining, starting with a shot from the 17th fairway after a big tee shot.

Kuchar stopped with his tee shot just short of the green on the par-3 14th, and he had no inclination to finish.

"I feel like in the morning, they will be perfect greens," he said. "A situation where I'm on 18 and

can pretty much have a proper night's sleep and not have to worry about going out, I'll finish on 18. But in this situation ... it was amazing, we were down on the last hole, 13, kind of a little bit down the hole and it was dark. I wasn't sure we were going to tee off on 14. Coming out over the water, it brightened up by a good margin. It's actually a beautiful skyline.

"I think when the sun sets coming off, it was a nice little place to be this time of night."

It looked even better atop the leaderboard, though there's still a long way to go — and plenty of stars



Webb Simpson tees off on the 17th hole during the second round of The Barclays golf tournament, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013, in Jersey City, N.J.

Associated Press

right behind him.

Keegan Bradley set the tournament course record with a 63 and was at 7-under 135, along with Rickie Fowler (64) and Adam Scott, who was tied for the

lead at one point until a lazy finish for a 66.

Phil Mickelson, trying to retool his game after his British Open win, had a 69 and was seven shots behind the clubhouse lead. □

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## Champion Petra Kvitova back in New Haven finals

PAT EATON-ROBB  
Associated Press

**NEW HAVEN, Connecticut**  
(AP) — Simona Halep beat Caroline Wozniacki 6-2, 7-5 on Friday night to reach the New Haven Open final.

The 21-year-old Romanian will be seeking her fourth title after winning three times on the WTA Tour since June. She broke Wozniacki six times, three times in each set.

The loss was just the second for Wozniacki, from Denmark, in 25 career matches in New Haven, where she is a four-time champion. Her only other defeat came a year ago when she was forced to retire from the semifinals because of a knee injury.

Halep will play defending champion Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic, who beat countrywoman Klara Zakopalova 6-0, 6-1 earlier Friday for her seventh consecutive victory at New Ha-



**Petra Kvitova, of the Czech Republic, hits a forehand during her victory over countrywoman Klara Zakopalova in their match at the New Haven Open tennis tournament in New Haven, Conn., on Friday, Aug. 23, 2013.**

ven.

Kvitova, who had fought through three, three-set matches en route to the semifinals, dominated her friend in a meeting that lasted only 50 minutes.

"I played my game, finally today," she said. "I played aggressively. I can improve my serve. I had some dou-

ble faults again, so I can still improve."

That might be hard for Zakopalova to believe. Kvitova won 53 of the 76 points in the match.

Zakopalova earned only three points in the second set before holding serve and closing to 5-1 with her only game win. She finished

with 10 points in the set. Kvitova ended things on her serve, striking an ace on the final point.

"She just played fantastic tennis today without any mistakes," Zakopalova said. "I think everything was working for her, so I have to just congratulate her, wish her good luck because she was the better player today, for sure."

Kvitova leads the WTA Tour's top 100 players with 29 three-set matches this season. She didn't let this one get close, with each set lasting 25 minutes.

"That's helpful, for sure, before (Saturday's) final," she said. "I hope that helps me to have more time for rest, not be on the court pretty long. So that's the good thing."

The 31-year-old Zakopalova has not beaten a top-10 player since 2011, but goes into the U.S. Open seeded No. 31. She upset eighth-

seeded Dominika Cibulkova, and beat Monica Puig and Elena Vesnina before losing to Kvitova.

"I have to forget this match because it doesn't matter who is on the other side," she said. "So it gives me a lot of confidence, this tournament, for sure. I played a great three matches. I hope it's going to work for me in the US Open."

Kvitova, ranked No. 9 in the world, will face the winner of Friday night's second semifinal between four-time New Haven champion Caroline Wozniacki and Romanian Simona Halep.

Wozniacki is 23-1 in New Haven. Her only loss came last year when she had to retire from a semifinal match against Russia's Maria Kirilenko, who lost to Kvitova in the final.

Kvitova, the 2011 Wimbledon champion, has never won the same tournament in consecutive years. □

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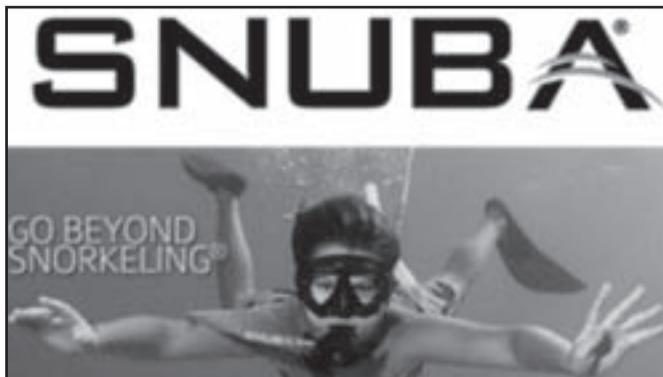
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### AL Capsules

## Pettitte pitches surging Yankees past Toronto 5-3

The Associated Press  
NEW YORK (AP) — Andy Pettitte pitched six effective innings, Curtis Granderson homered as the New York Yankees beat Toronto 5-3 on Thursday after a 3½-hour rain delay for their 10th straight victory against the Blue Jays.

Eduardo Nunez hit a two-run single, and the surging Yankees took advantage of a missed call to win their fifth consecutive game and 10th in 12 overall. New York improved to 12-1 against Toronto this season with its second four-game sweep of the Blue Jays, and moved within 3½ games of the second AL wild-card spot.

The Yankees have won 13 home games in a row against Toronto, their longest streak against one team since a 14-game run against Kansas City from August 2002 to April 2006. The last-place Blue Jays, who had a lead in every game in the series, have lost five straight and 11 of 15.

Pettitte (9-9) won his second consecutive start after going 0-3 in his previous

five. His only blemish was J.P. Arencibia's leadoff homer in the fifth. With his 254th victory, the 41-year-old lefty tied Jack Morris and Hall of Famer Red Faber for 42nd place on the career list.

J.A. Happ (3-3) took the loss.

**TWINS 7, TIGERS 6**

DETROIT (AP) — Chris Herrmann's second RBI double of the game broke an eighth-inning tie as helped Minnesota edge Detroit. With two out, Herrmann lined a ball into the right-center field gap. Center fielder Austin Jackson got a bad break on the ball, and just missed while attempting a shoestring catch. Doug Bernier scored from second to give the Twins the lead.

Casey Fien (3-2) earned the win. Bruce Rondon (1-2) took the loss.

Detroit had trailed 6-2 going into the bottom of the sixth, but rallied to tie it on Jackson's three-run homer. That allowed Justin Verlander to extend his unbeaten streak against the Twins to 11 starts, despite



New York Yankees starting pitcher Andy Pettitte throws to first to hold Toronto Blue Jays' Rajai Davis on base during the first inning of a baseball game at Yankee Stadium, Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

allowing six runs and 10 hits in seven innings.

Twins starter Andrew Albers escaped several jams with his assortment of slow and slower pitches, but ran out of gas in the sixth.

**WHITE SOX 4, ROYALS 3, 12 INNINGS**  
KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

— Conor Gillaspie homered leading off the 12th inning as the Chicago White Sox claimed their first three-game sweep in Kansas City since 2009.

Gillaspie drove the second pitch he got from Luke Hochevar (3-2) just over the outstretched glove of right fielder Justin Maxwell for his

11th homer. The tiebreaking shot came after Jacob Petricka made his major league debut in the 11th inning for the White Sox, inheriting runners on first and second with nobody out. Petricka (1-0) calmly got Salvador Perez to ground into a double play to end the inning.

## U.N. proclaims international day of sport for peace

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. General Assembly has adopted a resolution proclaiming April 6 the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace.

General Assembly President Vuk Jeremic called the resolution "historic," saying it recognizes that "the fact that sport has a unique power to attract, mobilize and inspire people around the world ... (and) can also serve as a formidable development tool."

The 193-member world body adopted the

resolution by consensus on Friday.

International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge told diplomats that religion, race, gender and ethnicity "do not matter on the field of play."

Top-ranked tennis player Novak Djokovic, speaking on behalf of athletes, said sport "can break cycles of mistrust and hatred" and can help the most disadvantaged youngsters succeed by promoting fair play, team work and respect for opponents. □



In this photo provided by the United Nations, Jacques Rogge, president of the International Olympic Committee, left, joins the Vuk Jeremic, president of the U.N. General Assembly and Novak Djokovic, the world's number one ranked men's tennis player, for a photo at United Nations Headquarters in New York, Friday, Aug. 23, 2013.

Associated Press

## NL Capsules

## Kelly pitches Cardinals to 6-2 win over Braves

The Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Joe Kelly pitched six effective innings, Matt Holliday broke out of a slump with two doubles as the St. Louis Cardinals beat the Atlanta Braves 6-2 on Thursday night.

David Freese drove in two runs as St. Louis won for the fifth time in six games.

The National League East-leading Braves played without Jason Heyward, one day after he broke right jaw after he was beaned during a win at the New York Mets. The outfielder had surgery on Thursday and could miss the rest of the regular season.

Justin Upton hit his 24th homer for the Braves, and Paul Maholm (9-10) came off the disabled list and allowed five runs, four earned, and five hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Kelly (5-3) yielded two runs and seven hits while improving to 5-0 with a 1.79 ERA in his last seven starts. Holliday went 2 for 3 and drove in a run, after going 2 for 24 over his previous six games.

**DODGERS 6, MARLINS 0**

**MIAMI (AP)** — Clayton Kershaw pitched eight strong innings as the Dodgers won their third game in a row.

Kershaw (13-7) allowed



St. Louis Cardinals' David Freese drives in Matt Holliday, rear, from third with a ground-out for the first run of the baseball game against the Atlanta Braves, in the fourth inning Thursday, Aug. 22, 2013, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

five hits, struck out six and walked three while lowering his ERA to a major league-best 1.72. The Marlins hit into three double plays and went 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position. Former All-Star closer Brian Wilson pitched the ninth for Los Angeles in his first appearance since undergoing Tommy John surgery. He allowed one hit while striking out two in his first game since April 2012. The Dodgers lead the majors with 17 shutouts, and Miami was blanked for the 15th time.

Kershaw had a two-out single in the fourth to drive in the first of the Dodgers' three runs in the inning. He is tied for the major league lead among pitchers with eight RBIs.

Henderson Alvarez (2-3) went five innings and allowed five runs, all scoring with two outs.

**PHILLIES 5, ROCKIES 4**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Domonic Brown hit a game-ending RBI single to lift the Phillies to their second come-from-behind win in as many days.

The Phillies scored twice in

the eighth and twice in the ninth, winning for the fourth time in five games to improve to 4-3 under interim manager Ryne Sandberg. Colorado carried a 4-3 lead into the ninth, but Rafael Betancourt (2-5) blew a save opportunity for the second straight game and the third time in 19 chances. He recorded two outs before departing with a sprained right elbow.

Cesar Jimenez (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the victory.

Willin Rosario homered for Colorado, which has dropped five of six. The Rockies have won nine of 39 games against Philadelphia since the start of the 2008 season.

Darin Ruf went deep for the Phillies.

**REDS 2, DIAMONDBACKS 1**

**CINCINNATI (AP)** — Shin-Soo Choo scored in the eighth inning on Arizona's fourth wild pitch of the game as Cincinnati raced to an improbable win.

Choo scored both Cincinnati runs, helping the Reds to their third win in the four-game series. Cincinnati improved to a season-high 18 games over .500 and increased its lead over Arizona to seven games for the NL's second wild-card playoff spot.

Choo singled to lead off the eighth against reliever Eury De La Rosa (0-1) and moved to second when De La Rosa's pickoff attempt rolled away from first baseman Paul Goldschmidt. Todd Frazier sacrificed Choo to third, and Choo scored when ball four to Joey Votto was a wild pitch. Mat Latos (13-4) went eight innings and Sam LeCure gave up two hits in the ninth, but earned his first career save.

Arizona starter Trevor Cahill, in his second start since coming off the disabled list, allowed four hits and one run. He walked three, struck out seven and threw three wild pitches — all in the third inning.

**NATIONALS 5, CUBS 4, 13 INNINGS**

**CHICAGO (AP)** — Denard Span scored the go-ahead run on pinch-hitter Chad Tracy's grounder in the 13th inning as Washington beat the Chicago Cubs after Nationals starter Stephen Strasburg blew a three-run lead in the ninth.

Span doubled leading off the 13th against Michael Bowden (1-3), moved to third on a sacrifice bunt by Steve Lombardozzi and scored on Tracy's roller to the first-base side of the mound.

## HGH

Continued from page 18

The league says the main sticking point right now is whether Commissioner Roger Goodell — or someone he designates — will continue to hear appeals for violations other than a positive test. The NFL wants to keep that part of the drug policy in place, while the union would prefer a panel of arbitrators to hear appeals that involve breaking a law or the demonstrated use of a performance-enhancer without a positive test.

Hours before Cummings weighed in, the man who oversees the NFL's drug program said the union has "buyer's remorse" about

HGH testing. A union official retorted that "the only thing" the league cares about "is power."

The latest public back-and-forth — featuring Adolpho Birch, the NFL senior vice president of labor policy and government affairs, and George Atallah, the NFLPA assistant executive director of external affairs — comes exactly two weeks before the first game of the 2013 regular season. "There is a chance it won't happen this season," the NFL's Birch told the AP. "I will also say there is a chance it will. I strongly hope that it does. I would have said the same thing last year. I would have said the same thing in October 2011."

Noting that the union wants to change the appeals

process for certain types of cases, Birch said: "If their interest is in advancing the interests of players who play clean, and reassuring the public we have competitive integrity, and restoring public confidence ... we can get this done. If their interest is worrying about people who have broken the law, and how to protect them, then we've got more of a problem."

Birch mentioned concessions he said the NFL has made during negotiations, including dropping its desire to increase suspensions for a second offense from eight games to 10 games. The union's Atallah said players have been asked to vote twice on whether to allow Goodell "to keep his appeal authority for



In this May 25, 2010, file photo, Adolpho Birch, NFL Vice President of Labor Policy and Player Development, responds to a question during a news conference at the spring NFL football meetings in Irving, Texas.

Associated Press

violations of law, and two times the players have said, 'No.' " "I don't expect the players' position to change on that," Atal-

lah said in a telephone interview. "None of this stuff can move forward, none of the policy can change, without a vote. □

# 'Boyfriend Tracker' app raises stir in Brazil

JENNY BARCHFIELD

Associated Press

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)**— Brazilians were outraged when they learned their country was a top target of the U.S. National Security Agency's overseas spying operation, with data from billions of calls and emails swept up in Washington's top secret surveillance program.

Yet when it comes to the cloak and dagger effort of catching philandering lovers, all high-tech weapons appear to be fair game — at least to the tens of thousands of Brazilians who downloaded "Boyfriend Tracker" to their smartphones before the stealthy software was removed from the Google Play app store last week, apparently in response to complaints about privacy abuses and its potential to be used for extortion or even stalking.

"Brazilians are a jealous people, what can I say? Of course it's going to be popular," said Marcia Almeida, a 47-year-old woman in Rio whose marriage ended seven years ago in large part because of what she said was her husband's infidelity.

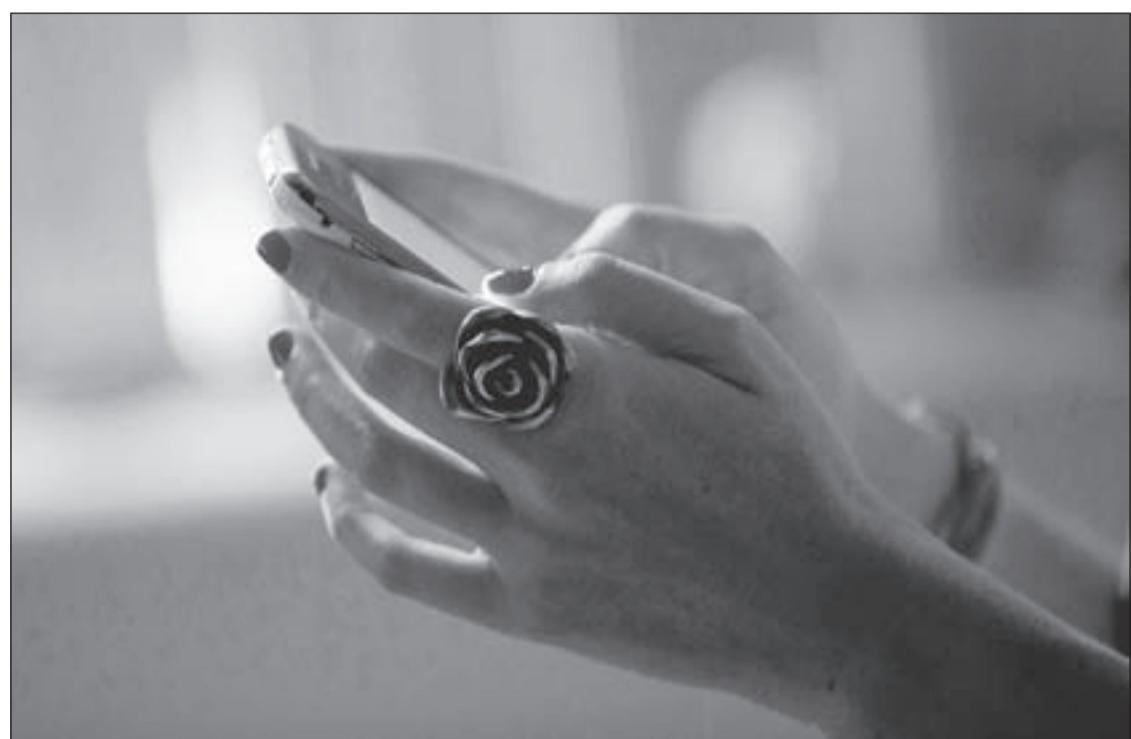
"It's a different type of spying," she said of comparisons to the NSA surveillance program. "You're checking up on somebody you know intimately, not some stranger."

The app, called "Rastreador de Namorados"

(Portuguese for Boyfriend Tracker), promises to act like a "private detective in your partner's pocket." Functions include sending the person doing the tracking updates on their partner's location and forwarding duplicates of text message traffic from the targeted phone.

There is even a command that allows a user to force the target phone to silently call their own, like a pocket dial, so they can listen in on what the person is saying. Similar apps are marketed for smartphone users in other countries, including Europe and the U.S., but Boyfriend Tracker is the first that has made any impact in Brazil, a country still irate as it learns more about Washington's snooping. Brazil has sent a government delegation to meet with U.S. leaders about the spy program that was revealed by Edward Snowden, the former NSA contractor who has been on the run since May and was recently granted asylum in Russia.

Google spokeswoman Gina Johnson said by email that as a policy the company doesn't comment on why apps are removed. Critics say even as advertised, apps like Boyfriend Tracker can violate privacy rights, and they warn that in the wrong hands they could be used for more sinister purposes, like stalking. Some in Brazil argue it



A woman poses for a photo using her smart phone in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2013. Associated Press

breaks an anti-online harassment and hacking law in place since April.

The law is named after Brazilian actress Carolina Dieckmann, who had nude photos of herself leaked by hackers in 2012 after she refused to pay about \$5,000. However, similar apps popular on Google Play market themselves to parents as a means of monitoring how teenage children use the phone and where they are at any given moment. Matheus Grijó, a 24-year-old São Paulo-based developer behind Boyfriend Tracker, says it has attracted around 50,000 users since its launch about two months ago, most since

the site began attracting media attention two weeks ago.

Grijó insists his lawyer vetted the app and determined it does not violate any Brazilian laws. Despite being removed by Google, it is still available via direct download from his company's website.

A disclaimer on that website stipulates the app is for "social and recreational use" and absolves the developer of responsibility for any misuse.

The first line of the download instructions says a woman installing the tracker on her boyfriend's phone should do so "with his consent."

"We are waiting for Google's position on the removal of 'Boyfriend Tracker' from Google Play, which we consider an error," read a posting on a Facebook page Grijó set up for the app.

To install Boyfriend Tracker, suspicious partners have to get their hands on their loved one's smartphones and upload the app. A free version leaves the app's icon visible on the target's phone, while a version that costs \$2 a month masks the icon.

Grijó said the app began as a joke between him and his girlfriend but the idea quickly caught on among their friends. □

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# Stock market closes higher as investors pick up deals

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
AP Markets Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A big jump in Microsoft helped lift the Dow Jones industrial

average Friday.

Microsoft had its biggest gain in four years after CEO Steve Ballmer said he will retire. Ballmer took

the helm of the software company from founder Bill Gates in 2000. The company has struggled to adapt as consumers switch from

desktop computing to mobile devices

The giant software company is part of the 30-member Dow and its surge contributed more than a third of the index's advance.

The Dow closed up 46.77 points, or 0.3 percent, at 15,010.51. The index closed down 0.5 percent for the week and is 3.2 percent lower for the month.

Stocks have sagged in August on concerns that the Federal Reserve will start to pull back on its economic stimulus. The Fed has been buying \$85 billion in bonds every month to hold down long-term interest rates and encourage lending.

Minutes from the Fed's July meeting released on Wednesday failed to give investors any clear indication of when the central bank will start slowing its bond purchases.

Some investors are using the summer slump as an opportunity to buy stocks

at less expensive prices, said Joe Bell, a senior equity analyst at Schaeffer's Investment Research. Stocks climbed to record highs at the start of the month.

Stocks are "getting more attention in the mainstream," said Bell. "People are buying this pullback right now."

The stock market stumbled at mid-morning after the government reported a plunge in new home sales, then drifted steadily higher in the afternoon. Trading volume was very light.

Major homebuilders fell after the Commerce Department said Americans cut back sharply on buying homes last month as mortgage rates rose. Sales of newly built homes fell at an annual rate of 13.4 percent in July. D.R. Horton lost 55 cents, or 3 percent, to \$18.73 and Lennar fell 96 cents, also 3 percent, to \$32.60.

A boom in housing has supported this year's rally in stocks. Now, the drop in sales has traders worried that the U.S. housing recovery could falter because of higher mortgage rates.

Traders reacted to the drop in home sales by buying bonds and gold, investments that become more attractive when the economy appears weaker.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury note declined to 2.82 percent from 2.89 percent late Thursday. The price of gold rose \$25, or 1.8 percent, to \$1,395 an ounce, the highest in two months.

The stock market may become more volatile in the coming weeks as traders try to anticipate the timing of the Fed's move, said Randy Frederick, managing director of active trading and derivatives at the Schwab Center for Financial Research.

Investors will also start to follow the debt ceiling debate in Washington more closely, he said. The U.S. stock market plunged in the summer of 2011 when policy makers wrangled over lifting the borrowing limit and pushed the country closer to default. □



Trader Jeffrey Vasquez works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. A big jump in Microsoft helped lift the Dow Jones industrial average Friday.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

## Dutch government to re-privatize ABN Amro via listing

**TOBY STERLING**  
AP Business Writer

**AMSTERDAM (AP)** — The Dutch government plans to re-privatize ABN Amro NV, the bank that was nationalized five years ago to help prevent a meltdown of the financial system, via a stock market listing that will happen next year at the earliest, Prime Minister Mark Rutte said Friday.

"Our conclusion is that this bank can return to the market," Rutte told reporters, adding that ABN would need at least a year to prepare for a public listing and that government officials have asked the company to start getting ready.

ABN was nationalized in October 2008 together with the Dutch operations of one of its would-be acquirers, Belgium's Fortis NV — now defunct — in a take-over bid that went horribly wrong. Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem said Friday the government had "invested" around 22 billion euros in saving ABN Amro.

The bank is now worth only about 15 billion euros

following an aggressive restructuring under state stewardship that saw it cut jobs and sell off foreign units to refocus on the domestic economy, Dijsselbloem said.

Earnings have suffered along with the weak Dutch economy. Second quarter profit rose to 402 million euros (\$537 million) from 337 million euros in the same period of 2012, ABN reported earlier Friday, but that was only because of fewer one-off impairment charges in the most recent quarter.

Bank CEO Gerrit Zalm, appointed by Dutch government officials, warned that bad loans are rising amid the Dutch recession, which has now passed the one-year mark. He said small businesses are suffering the most.

"A growing number of businesses that managed to weather the decline in revenues for a number of years are now reaching the end of their reserves," Zalm said.

"We expect loan impairments for 2013 to rise

above last year's level as the economic conditions in the Netherlands are set to remain challenging for the remainder of 2013."

Mortgage defaults are also rising, he said, though steep declines in real estate prices are tapering off.

One negative for businesses is a positive for ABN: Dutch consumers are saving more and spending less. The influx of retail savings provides a cheap source of funding for ABN, which then lends the money on at a higher rate. That helped net interest income rise to 1.36 billion euros from 1.28 billion euros in the same period a year ago. Despite the recession, the Dutch government is set to announce a new round of austerity measures next month in an attempt to bring its budget deficit below the 3 percent maximum mandated by European rules.

The Dutch government has been one of the strongest backers, along with Germany, of enforcement of those rules and of auster-

ity policies for Southern European nations. However, similar measures have proved unpopular at home, and the government's own independent Bureau for Economic Analysis says that more spending cuts will likely do more harm than good.

Rutte said an additional condition of selling ABN Amro is that financial markets will have to be stable. It is not clear whether Prime Minister Mark Rutte's Cabinet will be able to pass an austerity budget, as his centrist coalition lacks a majority in the upper house of parliament.

However, Rutte said Friday he was confident the budget, which has yet to be revealed, would eventually succeed — after the Cabinet makes some concessions to the opposition.

Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem endured a torrent of criticism Thursday after a newspaper report suggested he agreed with German counterpart Wolfgang Schaeuble that Greece will likely need a new bailout next year. □

**STREET BRIEFS****Facebook stock enjoys first close above \$40 mark**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Facebook's stock closed above \$40 for the first time Friday. The social network's shares have gained 53 percent since July 24, when it reported strong growth in mobile ad revenue and a solid profit during its second quarter. Facebook announced a technology partnership Wednesday that aims to expand Internet access to the 5 billion people not currently connected. That could create more potential Facebook users. Facebook Inc. went public in May 2012 at \$38 per share. There were lofty expectations, but the company's initial public offering was marred by trading glitches. Worries about growth prospects then weighed on shares. They bottomed at \$17.55 in September. Those fears appear to have eased. The stock closed up 5.2 percent at \$40.55 Friday, touching the highest price since the day of Facebook's IPO. □

**Report: 2 stock exchange rivals in merger talks**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Two electronic stock-exchange companies are in advanced talks on a merger that would create the second-biggest stock market operator in the U.S., according to a news report. BATS Global Markets and Direct Edge Holdings could announce a combination within days, The Wall Street Journal said Friday, citing unidentified people familiar with the matter. Representatives for the two companies declined to comment when asked about the report by The Associated Press. A merger of BATS and Direct Edge would create the No. 2 U.S. operator, behind New York Stock Exchange owner NYSE Euronext Inc. and ahead of Nasdaq OMX Group Inc., the Journal said, accounting for 20 percent of the market. It would be the latest consolidation in the sector. Futures exchange IntercontinentalExchange wants to buy NYSE Euronext for \$8 billion. □

**Microsoft says CEO Ballmer to retire in 12 months**

BARBARA ORTUTAY

BREE FOWLER

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer, who helped Bill Gates transform the company from a tiny startup into the world's most valuable business, announced plans Friday to retire sometime in the next year — a move

Google seriously enough. He consistently pooh-poohed Google as a one-trick company and in 2007 declared: "No chance that the iPhone is going to get any significant market share."

Ballmer's jeers proved premature. Google quickly made important inroads

with mobile gadgets. Response to the newest version of its flagship Windows operating system, Windows 8, has been lukewarm. When Ballmer took the helm in January 2000, the company was worth more than \$601 billion. Today, its value is less than half that amount, at nearly \$270 bil-

ment comes less than two months after the company unveiled a sweeping reorganization of its business in an attempt to catch up with Apple and Google. In his statement, Ballmer noted that Microsoft is moving in a new direction and needs a CEO that will be there for the longer term.

Microsoft, he added, "has all its best days ahead."

Ballmer met Gates in 1973 while they were living down a dormitory hall from each other at Harvard University. He joined Microsoft in 1980 to bring some business discipline and salesmanship to a company that had just landed a contract to supply an operating system for a personal computer that IBM would release in 1981. Ballmer, a zealous executive prone to arm-waving and hollering, did the job so well that he would become Gates' sounding board and succeed him as CEO. He has worked at Microsoft for 33 years, matching the tenure of Gates, who left the company in 2008.

Though investors cheered the news on Friday, BGC financial analyst Colin Gillis cautioned that it could be a "tough 12 months" for the company.

The obvious successor — former Windows head Steven Sinofsky — got booted by Ballmer, he said.

Sinofsky left the company last year shortly after the launch of Windows 8. He recently announced that he joined the venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz. □



**Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer speaks at a Microsoft event in San Francisco, Wednesday, June 26, 2013. Ballmer, who helped build Microsoft into a technology empire and then struggled to prevent it from crumbling under his own leadership, will retire within the next 12 months. The world's biggest software company did not name a successor. Microsoft Corp.'s stock shot up 9 percent in premarket trading following the news.**

(AP Photo/Jeff Chiu)

that presents another challenge to the tech giant as it struggles to move beyond the era of the personal computer.

Microsoft and other companies that thrived in the PC business have been scrambling to win back consumers who increasingly prefer smartphones and tablets.

Detractors say Ballmer contributed to the situation by not taking early threats from Apple and

in Internet video, online maps, email and mobile computing. Those successes contributed to the damage that Apple's iPhone and iPad did to Microsoft and its partners in the PC market.

Although it derives some three-quarters of its revenue from sales of software and services to businesses, Microsoft has failed to capture the imagination of consumers who have become more enamored

lion.

"There is never a perfect time for this type of transition, but now is the right time," Ballmer, 57, said in a statement. He planned to stay on until a replacement is found. Microsoft said the search committee would include Gates.

After the news broke, Microsoft's stock shot up as much as 9 percent and later came within two dollars of a 52-week high.

Ballmer's announce-

**Gold jumps near \$1,400 after home sales plunge****The Associated Press**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Gold prices rose sharply Friday after the U.S. government reported that sales of new homes plunged last month, raising concerns about the housing market's recovery. Gold for December delivery rose \$25, or 1.8 percent, to settle at \$1,395.80 an ounce, the highest price since June.

Traders bought gold after the Commerce Depart-

ment reported that home sales fell 13.4 percent last month. That shook investors' confidence in the housing recovery and the broader economy.

Gold tends to rise when traders anticipate weakness in the economy and a slower wind-down of the Federal Reserve's economic stimulus program. That could weaken the dollar over time, making gold more appealing.

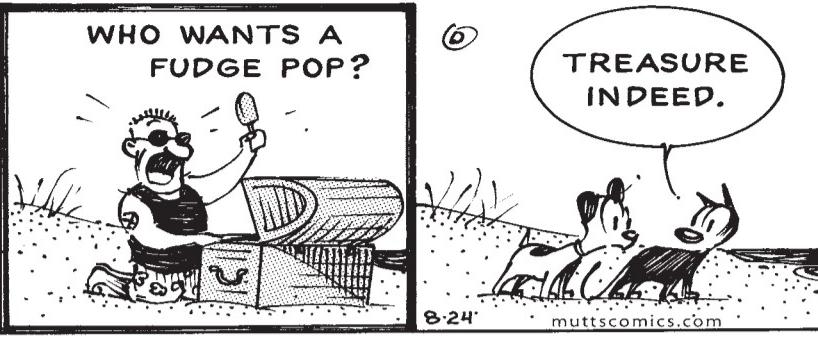
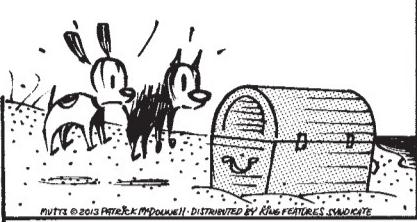
Silver for September delivery rose 70 cents, or 3 percent, to \$23.74 an ounce. Copper for September delivery rose 2 cents to \$3.35 a pound, October platinum rose \$1.50 to \$1,541.60 an ounce and September palladium fell \$4.20 to \$750.85 an ounce. Beans and grains rose. November soybeans jumped 41.25 cents to \$13.28 a bushel. December corn rose 5.5 cents to \$4.70 a bushel and

December wheat also rose 5.5 cents to \$6.46 a bushel. In energy trading, crude oil for October delivery gained \$1.39, or 1.3 percent, to close at \$106.42 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Heating oil added 3 cents to \$3.10 per gallon, natural gas fell 6 cents to \$3.49 per 1,000 cubic feet and wholesale gasoline gained 3 cents to \$2.87 per gallon. □

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5	7			8		3
1						
2				7		8
7			1			6
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	3				1	
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

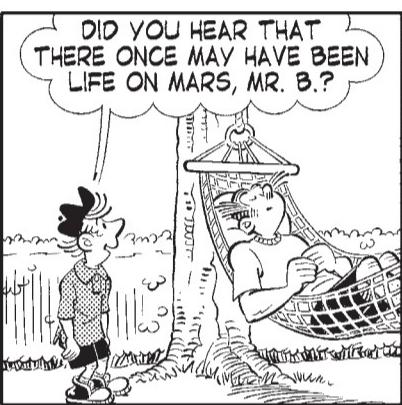
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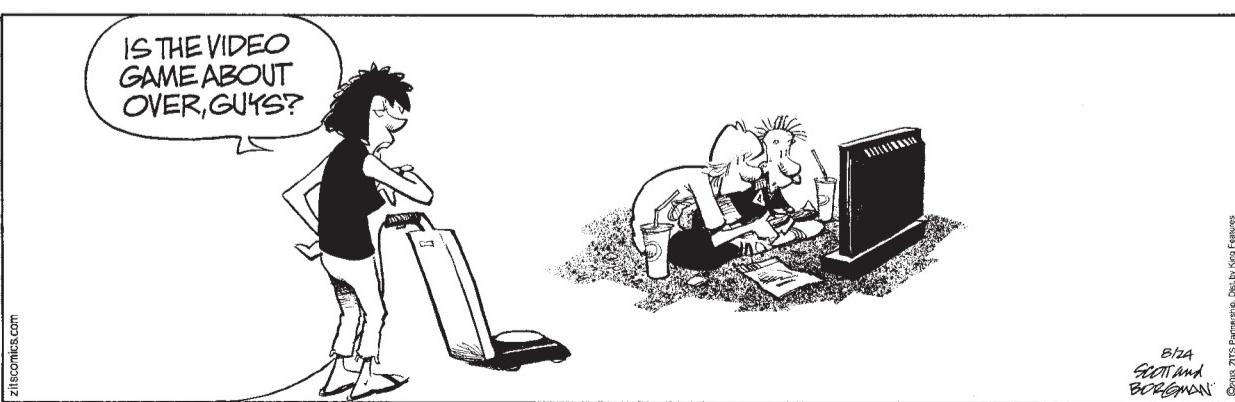
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



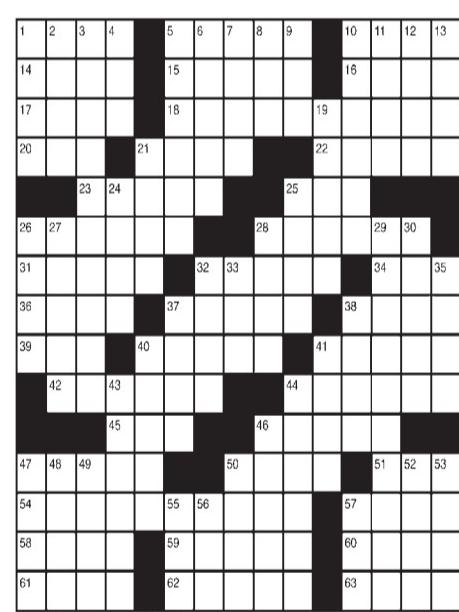
Zits



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ACROSS  
1 Q-tip, for one  
5 Goes no further  
10 Summon  
14 Leafy veggie  
15 Capital of Vietnam  
16 Length times width  
17 Doing nothing  
18 Germ-killing salve or liquid  
20 Peg for Tiger  
21 Therefore  
22 Domineering  
23 Stares stupidly  
25 Stowable bed  
26 Puts on a play  
28 Tendons  
31 H<sub>2</sub>O  
32 Duke or Hearst  
34 Wheel center  
36 Wading bird  
37 Pass on, as a message  
38 5,280 feet  
39 Sticky stuff  
40 Strength; might  
41 Hooded jacket  
42 Beginnings  
44 Actress Smith  
45 Afternoon hour  
46 One over par  
47 Eating utensil  
50 Flower holder  
51 Canister  
54 Wuss  
57 Metric weight unit, for short  
58 Poison ivy symptom  
59 Blacksmith's iron block  
60 Annoys  
61 "My Country 'Tis of \_\_\_"  
62 No longer fresh  
63 June 6, 1944

DOWN  
1 Play consisting of one short act  
2 Get just one's feet wet  
3 Unproven charge  
4 Stinging insect  
5 Deadly fishes



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/24/13

6 Tastes with an oomph to them

7 Aware of the duplicity of

8 Luau dish

9 Lucie, to Desi Jr., for short

10 Author Truman

11 \_\_\_ and crafts

12 Island garlands

13 Frilly around the edges

19 Wood for black piano keys

21 Water pitcher

24 Matures

25 Atlantic \_\_\_, NJ

26 Single swallow of a beverage

27 Forbidden

28 Night twinkler

29 Helicopter

30 Pouting

32 Church seats

33 Frothy drink

35 Lima or fava

37 Learn by \_\_\_ memorize

38 Spray for a police officer

Friday's Puzzle Solved

T	A	G	R	E	A	C	H	M	A	S	H
O	V	E	R	N	I	E		E	C	H	O
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S	C	R	E	W	Y	S	M	O	L	D	S
L	O	O	T	S		S	C	A	N	S	N
A	C	M	E			A	L	A	G	B	E
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8/24/13

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- 40 Cent  
41 Book leaf brand  
43 Give comfort to  
44 Shove to get through a mob  
46 Spice rack jar  
47 Barbecue rod  
48 Walkway  
49 \_\_\_ more; again  
50 Paper towel  
52 Actress Chase  
53 Too inquisitive  
55 "It \_\_\_ fun while it lasted"  
56 Social insect  
57 Child

## Museum for African Art broadens its mandate

PATRICIA COHEN

© 2013 New York Times

**NEW YORK** - Soon after construction began in 2007 on the Museum for African Art's new headquarters, engineers discovered a quicksand-like layer of sediment under the site, at Fifth Avenue and 110th Street. The structural problems were surmounted, but in other ways, the museum has had trouble finding stable ground since.

The opening date was postponed five times, fundraising stalled and the executive director who had nurtured the project for 15 years resigned last fall, when her husband's mayoral campaign began in earnest.

Now, in an effort to revive the faltering project, the museum's board has quietly embarked on a bold plan to transform the museum into a clearinghouse and public policy institute for all things Africa, and rename it the New Africa Center.

"We've made a dramatic shift," said Mitchell A. Harwood, treasurer of the museum's executive committee. Harwood cited as a model the Asia Society, the nonprofit educational center founded by John D. Rockefeller III in 1956, which also contains a museum at its Park Avenue headquarters in Manhattan.

The public policy institute - which is projected to open in 2015 - will expand the museum's portfolio far beyond the arts, to include economics, employment, conservation, agriculture and more. The strategic overhaul, outlined in an executive summary that the museum has circulated to potential donors, also offers an updated accounting - the museum's first in five years - of how much more money will be needed to complete the 70,000-square-foot headquarters.

In addition to the \$75 million raised, the summary pamphlet says \$60 million more is required - instead of the \$10 million more that museum officials had repeatedly quoted - to complete the interior con-

struction and develop programming. More than \$32 million collected is from the city, state and federal governments. The revised strategy comes after deep

officials steered tens of millions of dollars in public money and tax credits toward the project. Corporate executives, including the developer Ian Bruce Eichner and



**Windows meant to evoke an African basket weave, at the Museum for African Art in New York. After years of delays and stagnating fundraising, New York's Museum for African Art is assuming a new identity as a clearinghouse and public policy institute named New Africa Center.**

(Jennifer S. Altman/The New York Times)

soul-searching, a change in staff and a summer of frenetic planning. The board sought advice from the DeVos Institute of Arts Management at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, Harwood said.

The reshaped mission is the latest stage in the 29-year-old lifetime of the Museum for African Art. Created in 1984 by Susan Mullin Vogel, an art historian and innovative curator, the museum initially occupied two Upper East Side town houses before moving to a building in SoHo in 1993. In 1997 Elsie McCabe Thompson - now the wife of Democratic mayoral candidate William C. Thompson Jr. - took over as president. It was her vision to transform one of the city's smallest museums into a multimillion-dollar anchor of an elongated Museum Mile on Fifth Avenue at the corner of Central Park.

The museum worked with EdisonLearning Inc., a private operator of public schools. When that initiative fell apart in 2002, the museum president struck a deal with the developers Brickman and Sidney Fetner Associates to have the museum occupy the bottom floors of a 19-story luxury condominium.

City, state and federal offi-

John Tishman, chief of Tishman Realty & Construction, sits on the board. □



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## 'Hyperloop' travel idea gains fans, if not backers

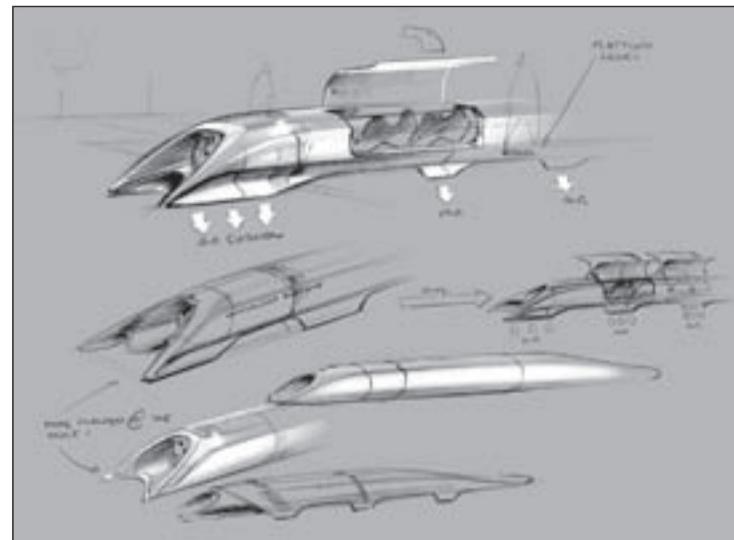
**JUSTIN PRITCHARD**  
**Associated Press**

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk released rough plans last week for a "Hyperloop" that would shoot capsules full of people at the speed of sound through elevated tubes connecting Los Angeles and San Francisco. Then he urged the public to improve on them.

Now the race is on.

A U.S. firm hustled out a model using a 3-D printer. Another company is testing a virtual Hyperloop with sophisticated computer software. In San Francisco, enthusiasts interested in "making Hyperloop a reality" will meet over beers.

Meanwhile, Musk himself has put aside the project and returned to his established transportation ven-



This image released by Tesla Motors shows a conceptual design sketch of the Hyperloop passenger transport capsule.

**Associated Press**

tures: luxury electric car maker Tesla Motors Inc. and the rocket-building company SpaceX.

In principle, the Hyperloop is possible.

The concept pulls together

several proven technologies: Capsules would float on a thin cushion of air and draw on magnetic attraction and solar power to zoom through a nearly air-free tube. Because there

would be so little wind resistance, they could top 700 mph and make the nearly 400-mile trip in about half an hour.

Actual construction would hinge on challenges far more complex than advanced engineering — those involving money and politics.

Musk projected a \$6 billion cost, but some say that's too low. Others suggested his timeframe of a decade to completion was naive — that getting political backing and environmental clearances, much less land to build the tubes on, would be hugely time-consuming. Conspicuously absent was a commitment that Musk would sink substantial money into the project anytime soon — if ever. On a call with reporters, Musk sug-

gested he might build a "subscale" test version in a few years if the idea was floundering.

One thing Musk was clear about: The public should participate in questioning, modifying and, ultimately, perfecting his proposal (<http://www.spacex.com/hyperloop>).

And in that respect, there has been no lack of enthusiasm.

At the computer simulation software firm ANSYS, engineers are designing and testing a virtual model.

Sandeep Sovani, the company's director of Global Automotive Industry, said he has long been intrigued by tube travel (an idea that predates the Hyperloop by a century) and wanted to do a model both out of intellectual curiosity. □

## Report: Puerto Rico unprepared for climate change

**DANICA COTO**  
**Associated Press**

**SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)** — Environmental officials and scientists warned

Friday that Puerto Rico is dangerously vulnerable to the effects of global climate change and urged it to prepare by better-regulated coastal development, and perhaps even by building artificial reefs. The storm-caused floods and erosion that have always affected the U.S. Caribbean territory are expected to grow worse as temperatures and seas rise, perhaps by 22 inches (57 centimeters) by 2060, according to a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers study.

Nearly all of Puerto Rico's essential infrastructure is located on the coast, including the main international airport and all its thermo-

electric plants, noted Carmen Guerrero, secretary of the island's natural resources department. A rainstorm in July forced temporary closure of the airport and claimed cars and houses elsewhere in the San Juan area.

"We saw how the metropolitan area became paralyzed," Guerrero said during a conference on climate change sponsored by the government and independent environmental groups.

"Our infrastructure could not handle that amount of water ... Puerto Rico needs to take action now, because otherwise, we're going to be dealing with crises."

Natural coral reefs are not growing fast enough to keep up with rising sea levels, so the coasts are losing



In this Oct. 25, 2010 file photo, the Atlantic Ocean laps the shoreline of San Juan, Puerto Rico, seen from a high-rise. Dozens of scientists are meeting in Puerto Rico on Friday, Aug. 23, 2013 to talk about ways the U.S. territory should prepare for climate change effects, warning the island is not ready to deal with rising sea levels and other problems.

**Associated Press**

that natural protective barrier, said Ernesto Diaz, director of the island's coastal zone management program.

So some are proposing creation of artificial reefs along popular beaches in Rincon, Ocean Park and Isla Verde that have been greatly eroded, Diaz said.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla this year ordered local agencies to analyze the vulnerability of the public infrastructure and how to better protect it. The government also expects to create its first land-use plan and replace a 1886 Spanish law that still governs development along Puerto

Rico's coast, which officials say has allowed construction along ecologically sensitive beaches.

More than half of the island's 3.7 million people live along its nearly 800 miles (1,300 kilometers) of coastline, and the shore is a key draw for its multimillion-dollar tourism industry. □

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## Lovato to appear in episodes of 'Glee'



In this Aug. 11, 2013 file photo, Demi Lovato arrives at the Teen Choice Awards at the Gibson Amphitheater, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Demi Lovato is taking her big voice to "Glee." The 21-year-old singer-actress will appear in multiple episodes of the show's upcoming fifth season, her publicist confirmed Friday. "Glee" star Lea Michele tweeted Thursday that she was excited that two of her "very best friends" — Lovato and Broadway vet

Phoebe Strole — would appear on the Fox show, and thanked creator Ryan Murphy for making it happen. Lovato is in her second year as a mentor on "The X Factor." She starred on the Disney Channel's "Sonny With a Chance" for two seasons. The new season of "Glee" premieres Sept. 26 at 9 p.m. EDT. □

## NBC re-airing Martin Luther King Jr. interview

Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — NBC News says it will rebroadcast a 1963 "Meet the Press" interview with Martin Luther King Jr. in honor of the March on Washington's 50th anniversary next week.

King appeared on the news program three days before his landmark "I Have a Dream" speech at the Aug. 28, 1963, civil rights march.

"'Meet the Press' Special Edition: Remembering the Dream" will air Sunday on 10 NBC-owned stations and on New England Cable News and a number of NBC affiliates. Most stations will air it immediately before or after the regularly scheduled episode of "Meet the Press" (check local listings).

The half-hour interview with



In this Aug. 28, 1963, black-and-white file photo Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, addresses marchers during his "I Have a Dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

King and NAACP leader Roy Wilkins will air in full, a half-century to the day after its original showing. It will be available online afterward. □

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# Analysis: Ben Affleck and the Batman backlash

JAKE COYLE

AP Entertainment Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Ben Affleck will be the next Batman: How 'bout them apples?

Well, the Internet, which erupted Thursday night after Warner Bros. announced that Affleck will play the Caped Crusader for its Superman and Batman team-up movie, does not like them apples one bit. Jokes (many of them imagining a Batman from South Boston) flew on Twitter. Petitions with thousands of signatures were launched to urge Warner Bros. to rethink their decision.

Affleck, just months ago the toast of Hollywood for his best picture-winning "Argo," hasn't had so much scorn heaped on him since "Gigli."

The response, roughly equivalent to news of the apocalypse, was undoubtedly out of proportion. After the leaden, joyless "Man of

Steel," adding Affleck — an actor of light, easy charisma and an increasingly capable filmmaker — can only improve a franchise currently in the hands of "Sucker Punch" director Zach Snyder and the beefy but unremarkable Superman actor Henry Cavill. Affleck is likely to be far from the biggest issue for the film, which is scheduled to begin shooting next year and be released in summer 2015. He has already proven to be a more interesting Superman, too, by playing a bitter George Reeves in the atmospheric 2006 docudrama "Hollywoodland."

There's a long history of casting overreaction that's later turned out laughable. There were plenty of critics when Daniel Craig, who had the audaciousness of being blond, inherited James Bond. Some, too, questioned Jennifer Lawrence's suitability for Katniss Everdeen in "The Hunger



In this Feb. 24, 2013 photo, actor/director Ben Affleck arrives at the 2013 Vanity Fair Oscars Viewing and After Party, at the Sunset Plaza Hotel in West Hollywood, Calif.

Associated Press

Games." And who would have guessed that Michael Keaton would make arguably the best of all the Batmen?

But Affleck's casting speaks to a larger shift in this age of the superhero blockbuster. Affleck will be following in the footsteps of Christian Bale, the star of Christopher

Nolan's "Dark Knight" trilogy — the artistic apogee of the superhero movies, a series that treated its hero not as cartoon but a vessel for exploring themes of terrorism and justice.

The days of such aspirations, though, seem to be dwindling. Sam Raimi isn't shepherding Spider-Man anymore.

Most of the most popular superheroes are on their second or third reboot. After the success of Joss Whedon's "The Avengers," Hollywood is looking increasingly to pairing its comics. Another "Avengers" film is on the way. And after the Superman-Batman movie, a "Justice League" film (with Superman, Batman, Wonder Woman, Flash, Aquaman and others) is rumored to follow.

These are the kinds of projects that could be seen as a sign of jumping the shark if this wasn't a movie genre built on men in tights. The

superhero blockbuster, still the biggest draw at the multiplex (with \$408.2 million, "Iron Man 3" is easily this year's biggest box-office hit), has made gimmickry a way of business, not a fault.

In the past, superhero movies didn't need stars: The brand was the main attraction.

But being a major star, Affleck comes with a lot of baggage that many expect will grate similar to how George Clooney did in Joel Schumacher's 1997 "Batman and Robin" — a film so bad, it's often been cited as a catalyst for more serious, dramatic interpretations of superheroes.

It's ironic because Affleck has appeared to ape the career of Clooney (a producer on "Argo") by shifting into directing and flirting with politics. Affleck, 41, will take on Batman at a slightly older age and in a more established place in his career. □

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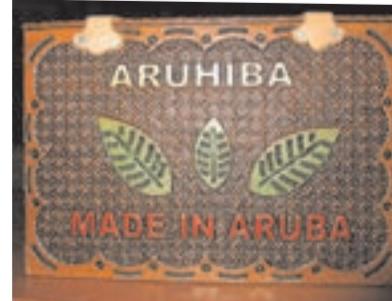
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## Bill's Turn at Bat



**Maureen Dowd**  
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So it turns out that Michael Bloomberg and Bill de Blasio, who's campaigning for mayor on a promise to de-Bloomberg Gotham, do have something in common. Both men, who grew up in the Boston area, threw caution to the wind and admitted while running for mayor of New York that they were Red Sox fans. Once elected, Bloomberg quickly switched his allegiance, buying eight season tickets to the Yankees and four to the Mets, but de Blasio is a Fenway Park acolyte - something his rivals are mocking him for.

Any little thing will help now because, in the wildest and most whiplash-prone Democratic mayoral primary ever, the spotlight has finally swung to de Blasio, who has knocked off Christine Quinn as the clear front-runner, a perch she briefly scrambled back onto after Anthony Weiner had knocked her off.

The 52-year-old public advocate has spent the last few days surrounded by the liberal glitterati of New York: Cynthia Nixon and her wife; "Boardwalk Empire" king Steve Buscemi; and ping-pong queen Susan Sarandon, who said she decided not to support Quinn because "you can't just vote your vagina."

At the Good Times coffee shop in Greenwich Village on Monday, de Blasio and his wife, Chirlane McCray, sat down to talk, pleased that they were no longer "laboring in the vineyard," as the candidate dryly put it.

Asked why Quinn was not rallying women, McCray, a mother of two, replied. "She's not accessible. She's not the kind of person I feel I can go up to and talk to about issues like taking care of children at a young age and paid sick leave."

Last spring, McCray did an interview with Essence magazine about her feelings about being a black lesbian who fell in love with a white heterosexual, back in 1991, when she worked for the New York Commission on Human Rights and wore African clothing and a nose ring and he was an aide to then-Mayor David Dinkins. With her husband, she was also interviewed by the press in December and was asked if she was no longer a lesbian, and she answered ambiguously: "I am married. I have two children. Sexuality is a fluid thing, and it's personal. I don't even understand the question, quite frankly."

But a lot has happened since then in this campaign season of interesting sexual proclivities and possible firsts. Besides the woman who wants to be the first first lady who used to be a lesbian, there is also Kim Catullo, the wife of Quinn, who would be the first first lady who is a married lesbian. Then there is the perverse Carlos Danger who wants to be the first mayor who plastered pictures of his privates online.

The summer has been so drenched with the unthinkable and the unorthodox that the de Blasios, married for 19 years, seem quite conventional by comparison. Over coffee, they talked about a road trip they took to Niagara Falls last year which was, de Blasio said, "a total blast," about bowling and basketball and how McCray did not like "Django Unchained" because it was too violent and about the positive reaction to ads featuring their 15-year-old son Dante, showing off the 'fro he has sported since third grade. His father warns in one ad that "someday" Dante will be stopped and frisked.

"Dante is a very cool customer," his father told me.

Quinn is unable to get traction, even with women, despite talking more freely about the historical nature of her bid to become the first woman and lesbian to be mayor, and the showcasing of her shy wife, a corporate lawyer who would prefer to live on a Vermont goat farm. Kim gave interviews revealing that Chris had received death threats for being gay and arguing that her image as a bully is not fair, noting that Chris never wins arguments at home. Quinn's message has been anodyne and poll-tested; the speaker of the City Council has somehow managed to reap the downside of her partnership with Bloomberg but not capitalize on the upside; she has left many people confused about where she stands and irritated with her role as lackey to Bloomberg's nanny. "What she did giving Bloomberg a third term in a backroom deal was morally and politically unacceptable," de Blasio said. It doesn't help that Bloomberg himself yearns for stronger candidates. As Ken Auletta reports in *The New Yorker*, the mayor in June "was sympathetic to an effort by some of his supporters to draw Ray Kelly into the race" and secretly paid for a survey by his own pollster to help convince the police chief he could win. De Blasio, in contrast to Quinn, has a consistent and strong, if hard left, message: If you didn't like the last 12 years of New York as a luxury product, elect me. Bloomberg proponents warn it will lead back to the days of stabbings, muggings and "No radio in car" signs.

De Blasio rebuts that Bloomberg should not have "doubled down on stop-and-frisk and become a fearmonger." "I remember," he said, smiling as he sipped his iced cappuccino, "when this same mayor was a breath of fresh air after Giuliani." □



## Close to the Edge



**Thomas L. Friedman**  
© 2013 New York Times News Service

Of all the troubling images from Cairo these days, none could be worse than the pictures of the many civilian casualties. But nearly as disturbing was footage from last week showing an Egyptian police vehicle toppling off the 6th of October Bridge, which spans the Nile in central Cairo. News accounts differed over whether the vehicle was pushed over by protesters or in a panic the driver burst through the bridge railing and plunged into the river. Either way, the bridge was badly damaged, the car was lost, the fate of its passengers unknown.

That picture is a miniature of a country that is already decaying, already facing enormous environmental and population challenges, already desperately in need of development and repair, destroying itself further. Who will pay to heal the human and material wounds Egypt is now inflicting on itself? Even billions of dollars from Gulf nations can't indefinitely prop up a country of 85 million people, where roughly half the women can't read. What Egyptians are doing to their nation is sheer madness.

What's especially depressing is that the leadership and options needed to reverse these trends don't seem to be on offer. Egyptians today are being given a choice between a military that seems to want to take Egypt back to 1952, when the army first seized power - and kept those Muslim Brothers in their place - and the Muslim Brothers,

who want to go back to 622, to the birth of Islam and to a narrow, anti-pluralistic, anti-women, Shariah-dominated society - as if that is the answer to Egypt's ills. "Egypt's striking lesson today is that its two most powerful, organized and trusted groups - the Muslim Brotherhood and the armed forces - both proved to be incompetent in the business of governance," the political scientist Rami Khouri wrote in *The Beirut Daily Star* last week. "This is not because they do not have capable individuals and smart and rational supporters; they have plenty of those. It is rather because the ways of soldiers and spirituality are designed for worlds other than governance and equitably providing services and opportunities for millions of people from different religions, ideologies and ethnicities. ... The lack of other organized and credible indigenous groups of citizens that can engage in the political process and shape new constitutional systems is largely a consequence of how military officers, members of tribes, and religious zealots have dominated Arab public life for decades."

How true. The Eastern Europeans had had experience with parliamentary democracy in the interwar period. So when communism was lifted in 1989, with the help of the European Union, they made relatively easy transitions to democratic capitalism. The East Asians had decades of dictators, but, unlike those in the Arab world, most of them were modernizers, who focused on building infrastructure, education, entrepreneurship and export-led economies that eventually produced middle classes so broad and educated that they relatively peacefully wrested their freedom from the generals. The East Asians also had Japan as a model - a country that said: "We're behind, what's wrong with us? We need to learn from those who are doing better." The Arab world did not have the roots of democracy that could quickly blossom or modernizing autocrats, who built broad, educated middle classes that could gradually take control. And it did not have an EU to act as a magnet and model. So when the lid came off with the Arab awakening, there was no broad-based progressive movement to effectively compete with the same old, same old: the military and Muslim Brotherhood.

I understand why so many Egyptians turned against the Brotherhood. It was stealing their revolution for its own stale agenda. But the best way to justify ousting the Brotherhood was for the military to put in place a government that really would get Egypt started on the long march to modernization, entrepreneurship, literacy for women and consensual and inclusive politics - inclusive even of Islamists - not another march in place under generals. Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi installed a Cabinet with some good people; it had the potential to give birth to a third way. But before it could take two steps, the army and police launched a campaign to decapitate the Brotherhood that involved, appallingly, the indiscriminate killing of hundreds of unarmed people. The Brotherhood provoked some of this - happy to have some "martyrs" to delegitimize the army's take-over and change the subject from its own misrule; Brotherhood sympathizers also burned nearly 40 churches and killed some police for good measure. So, once again, Egyptians and their friends abroad are being polarized between the same two bad options. The hour is late. El-Sissi has got to pull back and empower the Cabinet he appointed to produce a third way - an authentically modernizing, inclusive government. That is what the 2011 revolution was about. If he diverts Egypt from that goal, the way the Brotherhood did, if his only ambition is to be another Nasser and not a Mandela, Egypt is headed for a steep plunge, just like that police vehicle tumbling into the Nile. □

# Older brides with fancy gowns, garter belts, DJs

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Sherry-Lynne Heller-Wells always wanted a fairytale wedding.

So when she tied the knot last year, she spared no detail. She walked down the aisle in a flowing ivory gown with a long veil and lacey bolero jacket. Ten flower-toting bridesmaids and seven groomsmen were in the wedding party. And after the ceremony, 100 guests dined on beef tenderloin, clams casino and a three-tier vanilla cake.

The cost, including a fireworks show during the reception, was \$45,000.

Heller-Wells wasn't some blushing new bride, though. When the retired registered nurse, 64, wed her husband, Clyde, a small-business owner who is 65, it was her second time at the altar.

"I met my Prince Charming. He swept me off my feet," says the Clearwater, Florida, widow whose first husband died in 2003. "We're hoping this will be the last marriage. Why not celebrate?"

Only a few years ago, it was considered in poor taste for a bride over age 55, particularly if she had been previously married, to do things like wear a fancy wedding gown, rock out to a DJ at the reception or have the groom slip a lacy garter belt off of her leg. But those days are gone: Older couples no longer are tying the knot in subtle ways.

The trend in part is being driven by a desire to emulate the lavish weddings of celebrities of all ages. But it's also one of the results of a new "everything goes" approach that does away with long-held traditions and cookie-cutter ceremonies in favor of doing things like replacing the first husband-and-wife dance with a group reenactment of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" video. That's left older couples feeling less self-conscious about shelling out serious cash to party like their younger peers.

"The rules are out the win-



In this Friday, Aug. 2, 2013 photo Sara Musillo, left, assistant store manager at David's Bridal in New York assists Yolanda Royal, 64, center as she tries on wedding dresses with her niece Angelic Lavine. Royal and her husband-to-be plan to spend about \$11,000 on their wedding reception for about 100 people.

Associated Press

dow ... whether it's what you're wearing or the cake you're serving," says Darcy Miller, editorial director of Martha Stewart Weddings, a wedding magazine. "Sixty is the new 40 and that is reflected in the wedding." Couples age 55 and older made up just 8 percent of last year's \$53 billion wedding business. But that number has doubled since 2002, according to Shane McMurray, CEO of The Wedding Report, which tracks spending trends in the wedding industry.

It's in part because more couples are marrying in their golden years. In 2011, women ages 55 and over accounted for 5.2 percent and men in that age range made up 7.9 percent of the more than 2.1 million marriages performed in that year in the U.S., according to Bowling Green State University's National Center for Family and Marriage Research, based on analysis of census figures. That's up from 2001 when 2.6 percent of new marriages performed were among women in that age group; for men, it was 6.6 percent.

And those older couples spend more. That's because they're usually empty nesters who don't have the same worries as their younger counterparts: They aren't saving for their first home, for in-

stance, and they aren't burdened by huge student loan debts they must worry about paying off.

As a result, older couples dish out about 10 percent to 15 percent more than the cost of the average wedding, which was \$25,656 last year, down from the pre-recession peak in 2007 of \$28,732, according to The Wedding Report. That's meant big business for companies that cater to brides and grooms-to-be. Zaven Ghanimian, CEO of Simon G. Jewelry, which sells engagement rings and other jewelry to about 900 small stores across the country, says men in their late 50s and older have been investing more on engagement rings. A few years ago, they were spending \$1,500 to \$2,000; now, they're shelling out \$4,000 to \$8,000.

And at David's Bridal, the nation's largest bridal chain with 300 locations across the U.S., business from older couples has doubled in the past two years, compared with modest growth for the younger age group, says Brian Beitler, the chain's chief marketing officer. And while older customers represent only two to three percent of overall sales, the company expects that figure to keep growing. And they're a lucrative bunch. David's Bridal is look-

ing at ways to better connect with the older wedding crowd. In fact, its store in Danbury, Connecticut recently held a bridal fashion show at a nearby nursing and rehabilitation facility; the event was a hit with the residents, the store says.

"It really sparked something," said Jenna McNamara, the assistant store manager at David's Bridal in Danbury, Conn., which has noticed residents in nearby retirement homes as customers for either weddings or commitment ceremonies. "We realized this was something huge."

Terry Hall, fashion director at Kleinfeld's, the New York City bridal salon that has America's biggest selection of designer bridal wear under one roof with more than 1,000 designs, also has seen a change in attitude in the last year or so among the older set. He said business from that group has doubled.

Hall says Kleinfeld's older clients are spending \$4,000 to \$7,000 for a gown. That compares with the average purchase of \$3,500 for the under-30 set.

"They used to be subtle," Hall says. "Now, they're saying, 'Who cares? It's my



This January 2012 photo released by Randy Sager Photography Inc. shows Izzy Salant, right, toasting his new mother, Bonnie Cole, left, and his father, Jonathan Salant at the couple's wedding in Rockville, Md. Brides and bridegrooms who are in the 50s and 60s often have different priorities than their younger counterparts. Baby boomers tend to include their families more in the wedding itself.

Associated Press

day.' They want the dress." That's especially true for older first-time brides. At 64, Yolanda Royal, who lives in Irvington, New Jersey, is preparing for her first wedding next July. After living with her partner for 20 years, he popped the question in May. □